Erap arraignment reset anew to July 10

STORY BELOW, COLUMN 1

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
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This time, Johnny tops Noli

BY A. NOCUM

TALK about early birds and their efforts to catch the worm.

Senators have sent their people.to queue up at the office of the

THIS/ A14

UNAHAN ITO... HINDI ACCORDING TO HEIGHT

AFP chief: Threat real

'Why go public on security concerns?'

BY CARLITO PABLO
AND MARTIN P. MARFIL

"THE THREAT is real with or without the arraignment."

Thus spoke Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, Armed Forces chief of staff, as the AFP braced itself for a new destabilization plot against the Macapagal administration.

Police and military units have gone on full alert in Metro Manila following President Macapagal-Arroyo's warning that pro-Estrada forces were plotting destabilization moves during his arraignment.

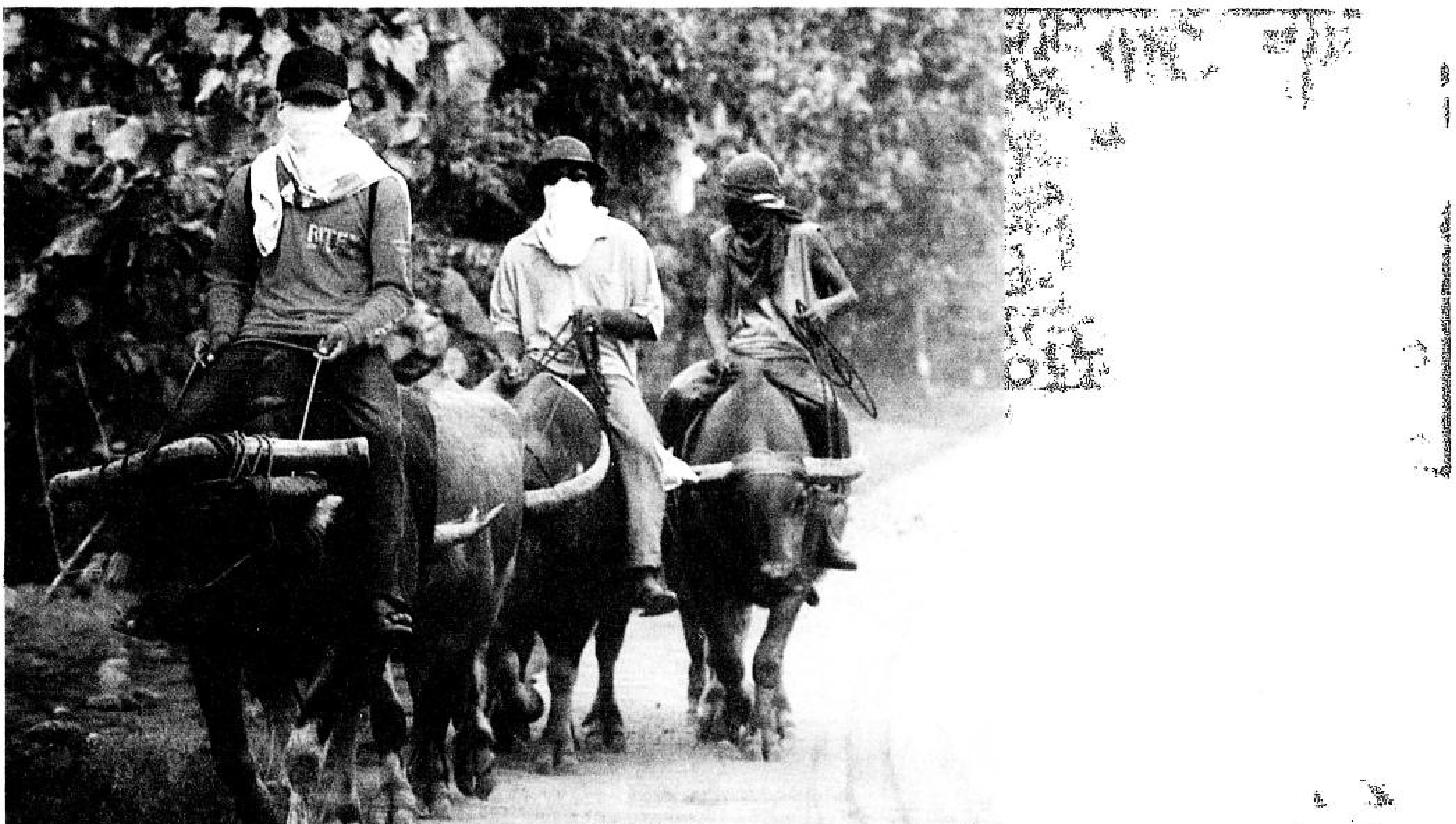
Estrada was scheduled to enter his plea on charges of plunder, perjury and illegal use of alias on Wednesday at the Sandiganbayan courthouse on Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City.

But the anti-graft court yesterday moved his arraignment to July 10. *(See story on Page A1.)*

Villanueva said the military was mobilizing Task Force Libra that quelled the bloody May 1 riot staged by supporters of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

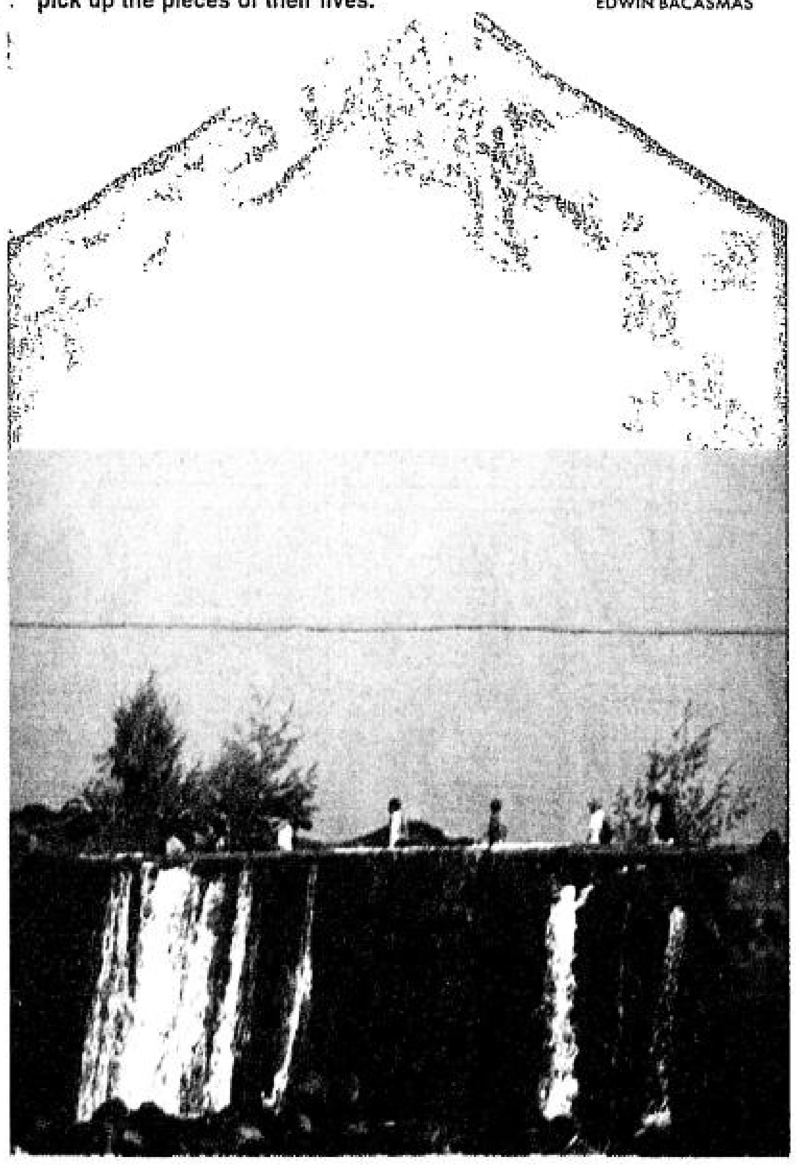
For its part, the Philippine National Police formally asked the Sandiganbayan to move Estrada's arraignment and trial to the Veterans Memorial Medical Center, citing a possible assassination attempt.

AFP/ A14



More eruptions expected; 28,439 forced to flee homes

RETURNING to whatever is left of home: Farmers (above) whose crops were buried under a foot of volcanic ash travel through the ash-covered Ligao National Road to retrieve their belongings. Between eruptions, between the poetry of waterfalls and the threatening volcano (below), residents of Barangay Sto. Domingo rush back to pick up the pieces of their lives. EDWIN BACASMAS



BY FLORENO G. SOLMIRANO
AND REY NASOL
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LEGAZPI CITY—Expect more explosive eruptions after Mayon Volcano blew its top on Sunday.

"A possibility of another explosion is present," Raymundo Punongbayan, Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology director, yesterday said here.

The eruptions forced 28,439 people to leave their homes and to move into 16 evacuation centers in the province, prompting the provincial government yesterday to declare a state of calamity in Albay.

The main eruption cloud discharged from the crater two days ago rose to about 10 kilometers high.

Southeast monsoon winds dispersed ash mainly to the northeast in the vicinity of Malilipot.

Because of the eruptions, Philippine Airlines suspended its flights between Manila and Legazpi City from June 26 to July 1.

The PAL flight to Naga City scheduled for 6:30 a.m. was also cancelled yesterday.

In a statement, PAL said the flights were cancelled because of poor visibility along the airways in Albay.

Punongbayan said it would be much easier now to predict if another explosive eruption was coming.

"If there is another lava fountaining then you can conclude for yourselves that there will be another explosive eruption," he said.

The Sunday eruption was preceded by a lava fountaining at about

MORE/ A15

Evacuees go home, fed up with crowded shelters

BY REY NASOL
AND ROLY EMBILE
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LEGAZPI CITY—After a sleepless night in a room in Bagumbayan Elementary School, which she and her seven children shared with several other families, Bienvenida Abellano, 57, had had enough.

Abellano and her children were back home, sweeping away the half-inch-thick layer of volcanic ash, which had swamped the roof of their house in Matanag at the foot of the volcano.

"We had no choice but to come back home because the school was so crowded and we didn't have even a mat under our backs," Abellano told Reuters.

In some schools, as many as 15 families were jammed in one small room, the evacuees said.

The Abellanos were among the 5,337 families or 28,439 people from 25 villages of five towns and three cities in Albay that moved to 16 evacuation centers, mostly

EVACUEES/ A15

Gov't troops clash with Abus; 5 hurt

BY ALEXANDER YOUNG,
JULIE ALIPALA-INOT
PDI Mindanao Bureau
AND CARLITO PABLO

GOVERNMENT troops clashed with the Abu Sayyaf Sunday in the Basilan capital of Isabela, ending a lull in the fighting and leaving a soldier and four bandits wounded.

Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan, spokesperson of the Armed Forces, said at a briefing yesterday in Camp Aguinaldo that the troops clashed with believed members of the "perimeter guard" of the Abu Sayyaf's main group in the firefight that started at 4:45 p.m. in Barangay Masola.

He said the main group, led by Abu Sayyaf chieftain Khadaffy Janjalani and spokesperson Abu Sabaya, was holding the remaining hostages from the Dos Palmas resort, including American missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham, and was believed several hundred meters away from the perimeter guard.

He said the main group was estimated to be in the common bound

GOV'T/ A14

DOJ clears Estrada in Dacer case

BY ROCKY NAZARENO

JUSTICE Secretary Hernando Perez yesterday cleared ousted President Joseph Estrada of alleged involvement in the murder case of late publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer on the basis of lack of evidence, but implied that Senator-elect Panfilo Lacson was not yet off the hook.

"We concluded that there's not enough basis to call on Estrada to answer the allegations" that the former President might have known in advance of the plan to murder Dacer and driver Emmanuel Corbito last November, Perez told reporters.

"There's not enough justification. (The allegations) could not stand in court," he added.

He described a nine-page affidavit of former Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force officer Supt. Glenn Dumlao, who implicated other senior PAOCTF officials in the case, as "hearsay twice removed."

Apart from linking Lacson, the former Philippine National Police chief, to the crime, Dumlao has also implicated Lacson aides Senior Superintendents Michael Ray Aquino and Cesar Mancao.

Apart from Estrada, "all the rest should be asked to explain their participation," Perez said.

He said the justice department would file a motion before Manila Judge Rodolfo Ponferrada to investigate the latest suspects in the seven-month-old case.

DOJ/ A14

Erap arraignment reset anew; militants protest decision

BY CATHY C. YAMSUAN
AND MARTIN P. MARFIL

SPARKING protest from militant groups, the Sandiganbayan yesterday again postponed the arraignment of ex-President Joseph Estrada and son Jinggoy on plunder charges, moving the date from tomorrow to July 10 due to a pending defense motion to dismiss the case on constitutional grounds.

The disgraced President is still scheduled to be arraigned tomorrow at 3 p.m. on a lesser charge of perjury, but that could change when another set of justices handling that case meets this morning. The Sandiganbayan has postponed Estrada's arraignment on the perjury charge three times.

Only lawyer Edward Serapio, the Estradas' co-accused in the plunder case, will be arraigned tomorrow.

Justice Anacleto Badoy Jr., chair of the anti-graft court's third division, announced the two-week postponement of Estrada's arraignment in the plunder case after meeting with defense lawyers and prosecutors, noting that the court has yet to rule on the defense motion.

This is the second time the third division has pushed back the arraignment of the ousted leader, who was originally scheduled to appear on the dock on May 31. He is expected to enter a plea of not guilty to charges of plunder, perjury and illegal use of an alias.

Badoy gave defense lawyers until June 28 to reply to the prosecution panel's opposition to the motion to quash. Estrada lawyer Rene Saguisag filed the motion earlier this month, claiming the law on plunder is unconstitutional and vague.

ERAP/ A14

BASTA, ATIN PA RIN YAN!

Int'l court hears 3-way fight over 2 Sabah isles

THE HAGUE—The International Court of Justice (ICJ) opened a round of public hearings on Monday to determine if the Philippines can intervene in a territorial dispute between neighbors Malaysia and Indonesia over two islands off Sabah.

Malaysia and Indonesia have agreed to allow the ICJ to settle their dispute over the ownership of the islands of Pulau Litigan and Pulau Sipidan, situated off the coast of Sabah, a disputed territory on the island of Borneo.

The Philippines fear that the proceedings before the court might have a bearing on the legal status of Sabah, to which Manila holds historic claims as well.

The Philippine ambassador to the Netherlands, Eloy R. Belo III, spoke first at the public hearings. He said that the countries before the court had a "common interest in the peaceful resolution of the dispute that divides us."

Michael Reisman, counsel for the Philippines, recalled that the court had denied Manila access to the submissions filed to the court by Malaysia and Indonesia.

Reisman asked the court to give Manila access to the documents submitted to determine if it indeed had legal interests that could be affected by the ruling of the court.

Malaysia is expected to cite its ownership of Sabah as the basis for its claim to the disputed Celebes Sea islands.

But the Philippines also lays claim to Sabah on the grounds that it was ruled by the Sulu sultanate in the 15th century.

Both Jakarta and Kuala Lumpur have objected to the Philippine intervention. The hearings will last until Friday, with Malaysia and Indonesia both arguing why the Philippines should not be allowed to intervene.

The Sabah question has been an irritant in ties between Manila and Kuala Lumpur ever since former Philippine President Diosdado Macapagal revived a claim to the state when it became independent and joined Malaysia in 1963.

The Philippines has never formally renounced its claim to Sabah, although officials in Manila have said they would not allow the dispute to disrupt bilateral relations.

Attempts by previous Philippine administrations to drop the Sabah claim have been shot down by the Senate, and relations between Kuala Lumpur and Manila have been broken off twice because of the row. *AFP*

DFA probes Sino buildup in Spratlys

By R. Nazareno

THE DEPARTMENT of Foreign Affairs is verifying reports that Chinese naval forces have been stepping up activity around the disputed Spratly Islands in the South China Sea.

This after The Washington Times reported that the Chinese have deployed more than one dozen warships in the area over the past several weeks.

The newspaper quoted US intelligence officials as saying the presence of the warships was raising tensions between the Philippines and China as they contradict earlier assurances made by Beijing that it would keep its naval vessels away from the area.

China is claiming "indisputable sovereignty" over the Spratlys, a cluster of potentially oil-rich isles, reefs and shoals that are also being contested by Taiwan, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and the Philippines.

The Washington Times said that according to classified US intelligence reports, about 12 Chinese ships, including destroyers and frigates, have been spotted in the Spratlys island chain.

The paper said that in May the Chinese navy had also sent ships to Scarborough Shoal, another disputed island group, and US officials believe the Chinese are planning to build a permanent military site there similar to the structures on Mischief Reef farther south.

The Times said US officials believe the Chinese are following the same pattern it used in occupying Mischief Reef—first, fishing vessels are sent to the area, to be followed later by warships.

The Chinese military occupation of the Spratlys is part of Beijing's plan to expand its sovereignty away from its coasts, in what US intelligence officials call an "island chain" strategy, the Times said.

The strategy involves a gradual expansion of military control over areas progressively outward from China's coast, in a bid to establish Beijing's hegemony over the South China Sea, which is vital to trade and communication links in the region, the paper said.

Last year, a Chinese fisherman was fatally shot during a confrontation with the Philippine military.

The Times quoted an Asian diplomat as saying Beijing's military forces in the South China Sea are among its most aggressive and are pushing to expand Chinese power in the region. *With a report from The Washington Times*

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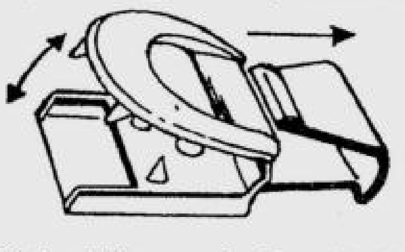

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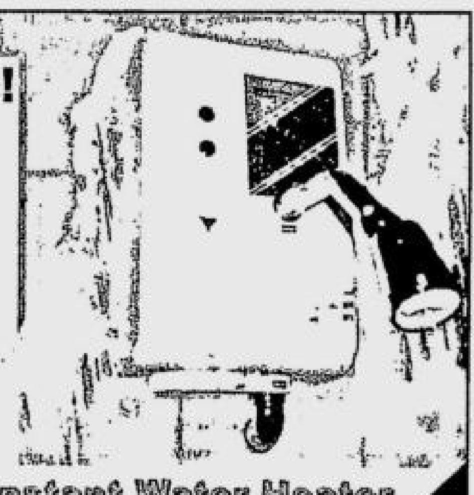

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ARMM polls, plebiscite still in limbo

By Christine Avendaño

WILL the long-delayed plebiscite and elections for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao end up being postponed yet again?

The Senate and the House early this month passed their own versions of a bill to fix the ARMM plebiscite and elections for later this year.

Last week, however, Senate legislative officials refused to certify the consolidated bill from the two chambers.

The reason: the House's "irregular" transmission to the Senate of the "enrolled copy" of Senate Bill 12961 and House Bill 2282, the two chambers' respective versions of the ARMM bill.

The development has set observers in the two chambers wondering whether there is a "conspiracy" to postpone the ARMM plebiscite and elections indefinitely.

The elections for ARMM officials had been originally scheduled for March 1996, and then postponed to September that same year to give way to the peace talks with the secessionist Moro National Liberation Front.

After the change in leadership in 1998, MNLF chair Nur Misuari proposed that the plebiscite be postponed to 2003.

MISUARI

Last year, the 11th Congress passed RA 8953 resetting the ARMM elections to May 2001, to coincide with the elections that year.

That did not happen and the latest in the ARMM saga was Congress' approval of a consolidated ARMM bill early this month that would set the plebiscite for Aug. 15 and the elections for Nov. 26 this year.

The "enrolled copy," bearing the required official signatures, held that the Senate and House bills had been passed on June 5 and June 7, respectively.

But Rodelio Dacsil, the director of the Senate Legislative Bills and Index Service, said the transmission of the consolidated version of both bills did not follow the proper procedures as shown in the Senate's records.

Dacsil said it was standard procedure that enrolled copies of the consolidated version should first go to the Legislative Bill and Index Service to check if it is an accurate reproduction of the approved bill.

He said this could "prove fatal" to the bill's enactment since, besides the procedural lapses, "we do not have any basis on which to base the enrolled copy."

Lawyer Aluino Tolentino, executive director for legislative services, said that since it appeared that none of the two bills had been approved by both chambers, the enrolled copy was "irregular."

TRIPOLI TALKS

Gloria thanks Gadhafi

TRIPOLI—President Macapagal-Arroyo thanked Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi for Tripoli's mediation over the conflict between the government and Moro rebels, the JANA agency reported over the weekend.

In a written message quoted by the official JANA agency, Arroyo thanked Gadhafi "for efforts undertaken by the (Gadhafi) charitable organization to restore peace in the Philippines."

Malacañang announced late Friday that the government and the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front had signed a peace deal that day in Tripoli under the auspices of the Gadhafi charitable foundation, run by the Libyan leader's son, Seif al-Islam.

The Libyan leader met with delegations from the MILF and the Moro National Liberation Front, the main Muslim separatist movement which signed its own peace deal with the government in 1996 and took part in the peace negotiations in the Libyan capital, JANA said.

The agreement sets out plans for a ceasefire and a political solution to the conflict with the MILF, a splinter group of the MNLF which has been fighting for 23 years to set up an Islamic state in Mindanao.

In Cotabato City, however, Ghazali Jaafar, MILF vice chair for political affairs, claimed that there was no signing of a new ceasefire agreement in Tripoli.

What was signed was an agreement to implement all other agreements signed by both parties, including "the agreement on the general cessation of hostilities of July 18, 1997, signed in Kuala Lumpur," said Jaafar, a member of the MILF central committee.

In the document signed in Tripoli, both sides also agreed to form a fact-finding team composed of representatives from the Organization of Islamic Conference that would monitor the enforcement of all the agreements, he added.

Jaafar said the implementation of these agreements would ensure the smooth conduct of the peace talks and curtail lawlessness in Mindanao.

"A signed peace agreement would increase the hope that the Mindanao problem would now be a thing of the past," Jaafar said.

North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol reminded peace negotiators that any agreement should provide sanctions against violators of the ceasefire.

"The (ceasefire) agreement becomes useless if combatants, whether MILF or government troops, will keep on shooting at each other, both claiming they were just defending themselves," Piñol said. *Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau, and AFP*

This 'Pinoy' thinks Nora is president

A DEPARTING Chinese national, who tried to pass himself off as a Filipino by carrying a Philippine passport, was held by immigration authorities at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport on Saturday night after he was found lying on his citizenship.

Yam Chua Kong, 51, could neither speak Filipino nor sing the national anthem, "Lupang Hinirang." Worse, he said the present Philippine President is Nora Aunor, the actress who bears a resemblance to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

This prompted immigration supervisor Danilo Almeda to bar Yam from leaving for Hong Kong and to order further investigation on his case.

Investigation showed that Yam frequently traveled to Manila using a Philippine passport since the late '80s.

Yam presented the passport to immigration officers while clearing the immigration counter at the departure area at the Naia. Suspicious of his true citizenship, the officers brought him before Almeda for further questioning.

Yam, when grilled by Almeda to prove that he's a Filipino, could hardly speak the local language. When asked to sing "Lupang Hinirang," he bowed his head and then hummed the song in Chinese.

Finally, Almeda asked him if he knew who the President is. "Is it Nora Aunor?" one of the immigration officers butted in. Yam nodded in agreement.

Yam, a suspected drug lord, was held upon his arrival in Manila in 1998 for carrying a Philippine passport. Four immigration commissioners later ordered his deportation.

Months later, then acting Immigration Commissioner Bayani Subido overturned the four commissioners' order and ruled that Yam was a Filipino citizen and ordered his release from detention.

[illegible] "Let those that seek Thee rejoice and be glad in Thee." Psalm 40:16
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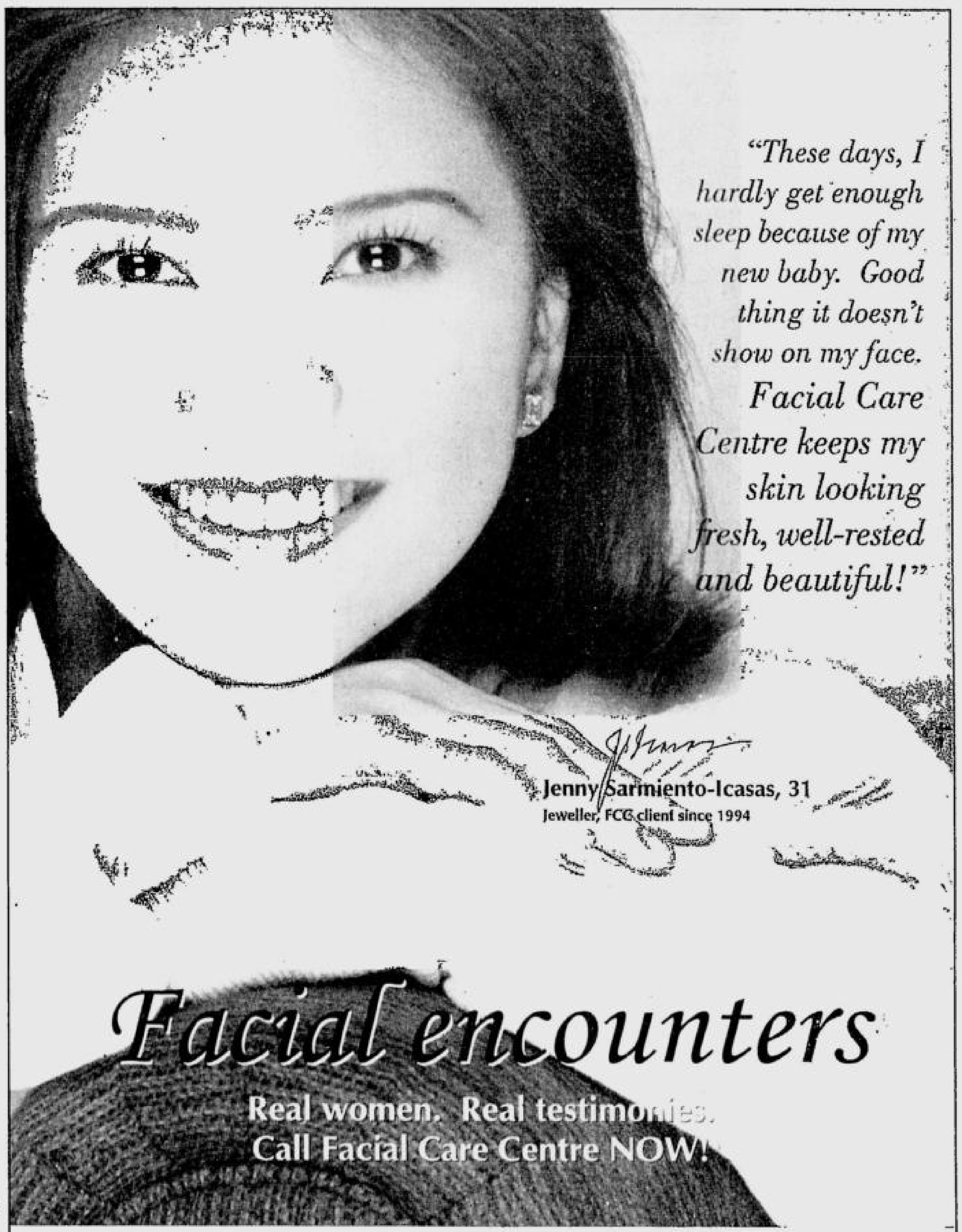
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KIDNAP FOR RANSOM

Court stops DOJ probe of Lacson

By Jerome Aning

A MANILA judge yesterday barred the Department of Justice from continuing with its preliminary investigation into Senator-elect Panfilo Lacson's alleged involvement in several kidnap-for-ransom cases.

In an eight-page order, Manila Regional Trial Court Judge Hermogenes Liwag said the Office of the Ombudsman had primary jurisdiction over the cases.

Liwag's injunction covered the DOJ, the National Bureau of Investigation, state prosecutors Leo Dacera III, Misael Ladaga and Mary Josephine Lazaro, and their agents or subordinates.

"(I)t is the feeling of this Court that the respondents cannot insist on conducting a preliminary investigation on the same matter under the pretext of a shared and concurrent authority," the judge ruled.

The charges against Lacson, former national police chief, and several of his subordinates were filed by ex-police agent Mary Ong and members of the victims' families with the Ombudsman on Jan. 8.

Ong and the others accused Lacson and other police officials, including Michael Ray Aquino, with kidnapping at least seven Chinese and Taiwanese businessmen and later killing three of them even after ransom had been paid by their families.

On May 18, the DOJ began its own investigation into some of the cases. Lacson and Aquino, through their counsel, opposed the move, saying the cases were pending before the Ombudsman.

But the two were reportedly told by state prosecutors that the cases against them did not involve violation of the Anti-graft and Corrupt Practices Act and were not committed in the discharge of their official duties (hence, they could be heard by the DOJ).

The prosecutors also claimed the basis of their probe—a complaint filed by Ong—was "not exactly the same" as the charges she filed before the Ombudsman.

They said they were merely fulfilling their duty by investigating cases turned over to them by the NBI, to whom Ong first made her accusations.

The respondents also said they had the authority to conduct preliminary investigations in cases recognized by the regular courts.

Judge Liwag countered, however, that the cases before the DOJ and the Ombudsman were "exactly similar and alike" and the DOJ probes were "clearly duplicitous."

The Court left it to the Ombudsman to decide if the cases against Lacson and Aquino were committed in the exercise of their duties.

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Gloria reaches out to the poor

AMID reports of a new destabilization plot against her five-month-old administration, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday met with urban poor groups in an apparent bid to reach out to the sector that more than a month ago marched to the Palace in anger over the arrest of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

At the Metro Manila Urban Poor Assembly at the Folk Arts Theater, Ms Macapagal unveiled a five-point "national anti-poverty strategy" to address the needs of the poor.

The new plan, which Ms Macapagal said was formulated after consultations she made with the urban poor sector during her first months in office, has these core strategic thrusts:

- Redistribution of physical assets to the poor.
- Provisional financial and institutional requirements of human development services.
- Provisional security and protection from violence of the basic sectors.
- Increasing employment and livelihood opportunities for the poor.
- Strengthening of the capacity of organized groups to participate in social life.

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COMELEC IN CRISIS

Poll execs overrule travelling chair

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

A LEADERSHIP crisis is threatening the Commission on Elections and chair Alfredo Benipayo had better cut short his official trip to Sweden to nip it.

Benipayo left Friday night for Stockholm to attend the Democracy Forum 2001 and the International IDEA 6th Conference on Electoral Management Bodies from June 27 to July 1.

Before leaving, he issued a memorandum designating Commissioners Rufino Javier and Rex Borra as officers in charge during his absence.

Javier was to be in charge of judicial and quasi-judicial matters, while Borra was to oversee administrative and financial matters "with full signing authority in place of the chairman."

Four of the six commissioners who stayed behind, however, including Javier himself, issued Resolution No. 4488 on Saturday setting aside Benipayo's memorandum and naming Javier as acting chair.

The four, who included Commissioners Luz Tancangco, Ralph Lantion and Mehol Sadain, form the opposition to Benipayo and the two other commissioners in the poll body.

Under the resolution, Javier was to perform all the powers and functions of a regular chair "as provided for under the Constitution and existing laws, rules and regulations until the return and re-assumption of the regular chairman."

Commissioners Florentino Tuason and Borra did not attend the en banc meeting last Saturday at 8 a.m. when the resolution was approved, although they had been sent notices by Lantion. Above their names was written the word "absent."

A source said Comelec employees are now torn between following Benipayo's memorandum and the en banc resolution.

"Our hands our tied because we don't know whom to follow," a department head said.

"We raised the idea of holding a sit-down strike during our lunch break or not reporting for work until the chairman arrives to express our disgust with the situation, but Borra said this would only worsen things," the source added.

Borra could not be reached for comment.

Tancangco said the Comelec en banc had to set aside Benipayo's memorandum because the designation of the OICs had not even been discussed. She noted Benipayo's memorandum was only released on June 22, the day he left for Stockholm.

"We held en banc meetings from Monday to Thursday (last week) to take up pending cases and he never told us about his trip or about his memorandum," Tancangco said.

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Teachers group endorses movie

By Blanche S. Rivera

APPARENTLY realizing the power of the screen over the street demonstrations, militant teachers are turning to show business for the education of those who remain indifferent to the teachers' role in society.

The Alliance of Concerned Teachers urged the Department of Education, Culture and Sports to endorse the latest project of dramatic actress Maricel Soriano, who portrays the life of a public school teacher in the movie "Mila."

The film is based on the true story of Anita Pamintuan, a teacher at the Epifanio de los Santos Elementary School who died following the hunger strike staged by militant teachers in 1990.

Pamintuan was among those who took to the streets to demand a wage increase and other benefits for government teachers. Thousands of strikers were removed from their jobs by then education secretary Isidro Cariño.

Multi-awarded writer Ricardo Lee made the screenplay of "Mila" while Joel Lamangan directed the film. The premiere night is set for today.

CLASSIFIED BRANCH

Inquirer president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez (left), Classified Ads branch manager Aileen A. Dacanay and PDI chair Marixi R. Prieto cut the ribbon for the opening of the new Inquirer Classified Ads branch along Aurora Boulevard in Cubao recently. Key people from various real estate, business and recruitment establishments were present during the blessing. Looking on are PDI Classified Ads sales manager Lulu Diaz and PDI SVP for sales and marketing Rene R. Reinoso.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, June 26, 2001
12th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: **Gen 13:2, 5-18**
Gospel: **Mt 7:6, 12-14**

Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not give what is holy to the dogs, or throw your pearls to the pigs: they might trample on them and even turn on you and tear you to pieces.

So, do to others whatever you would that others do to you: there you have the Law and the Prophets.

Enter through the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many go that way. How narrow is the gate that leads to life and how rough the road; few there are who find it."

Commentary

After an initial warning to treat what is holy in a proper way, Jesus reiterates the Golden Rule: "In everything do to others as you would have them do to you." He adds that this is the Law and the Prophets. What does Jesus mean? The context indicates that Matthew does not want it to be understood as a mere human law of action and reaction, but as an explanation of God's loving relation to his people in which everyone is invited to participate as the new Israel. It is an invitation to love without end. It is an invitation to be compassionate like the heavenly Father is compassionate. The criterion for this love is love for the enemy.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for your infinite love that keeps us alive. Grant that we may share this love in a sincere way with all our brothers and sisters.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CIVIL LAW (SPECIAL CONTRACTS: SALES)—Contract of sale—A contract of sale is a reciprocal transaction. The obligation or promise of each party is the cause or consideration for the obligation or promise by the other. The vendee is obliged to pay the price, while the vendor must deliver actual possession of the land. In the instant case, the original plan was that the initial payments would be paid in cash. Subsequently, the parties (with the participation of respondent bank) executed an addendum providing instead, that the petitioners would secure a loan in the name of petitioner Agro Conglomerates Inc. for the total amount of the initial payments, while the settlement of said loan would be assumed by Wonderland. Thereafter, petitioner Soriano signed several promissory notes and received the proceeds in behalf of petitioner company. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Quisumbing, Agro Conglomerates, Inc. v. Court of Appeals, G.R. No. 117660, December 18, 2000]

Digest by R.B. Vera

Standardized oil pricing urged

Militants hit Petron for role in tax scam

By Gerald Lacuarta

MILITANT groups yesterday opposed the participation of oil giant Petron in the proposed $600-million naphtha cracker project of the Philippine National Oil Co. because of the firm's alleged involvement in last year's P1.5-billion tax credit scam.

To allow Petron to participate in the state-led project despite the company's top executives facing plunder charges before the Sandiganbayan would run counter to the government's anti-corruption campaign, said Adela Simbulan, the spokesperson of the Koalisyon Kontra Kawatan (KKK).

"This will send the wrong message that corruption is being rewarded, which would contradict the gains of the Edsa People Power 2 uprising that ousted a corrupt administration," Simbulan said in a statement.

Prosecution

Simbulan said that instead of giving Petron another opportunity to boost profits through the naphtha cracker project, the Macapagal-Arroyo administration should pursue the prosecution of those involved in the tax credit scam.

"Why should Petron be rewarded with a part in a government project when it benefited from a scheme that defrauded the government of millions of pesos?" Simbulan said.

Petron is one of 11 firms eyeing a 32-percent stake in the PNOC joint-venture project.

Simbulan said several former and present officials of Petron and Pilipinas Shell, two former finance department officials, and executives of several garment firms were those charged with graft by the Ombudsman for an alleged tax credit scam that deprived the government of almost P1.5 billion.

Tax credits

The garment companies allegedly illegally secured tax credit certificates from the finance department and sold them to the oil companies at a discount.

The two oil companies allegedly used these TCCs to pay their taxes to the government.

"Tax credits are incentives used to offset future tax obligations," Simbulan said.

The DoF's One-Stop Shop Inter-Agency Tax Credit and Drawback Center (OSS) had identified Petron and Shell as the two biggest recipients of TCCs.

A task force created to investigate the billion-peso scam found that Shell allegedly bought P917.6 million worth of TCCs from 20 companies. Petron allegedly bought P679.3 million worth of TCCs from 11 companies.

Others in scam

Simbulan said the Ombudsman should also check whether the other companies participating in the naphtha cracker project are not also involved in the scam.

Aside from Petron, the other companies taking part in the project are Petrochemicals Corp., Bataan Polyethylene Corp., Sumitomo Corp., Mitsubishi Corp., Itochu Corp., Mitsui & Co., Marubeni Corp., BP Amoco PLC, Philippine Resins Industries Inc. and D&L Industries.

The group of private firms was expected to sign this month a new memorandum of agreement replacing the old MOA that expired last March. The new MOA sets out their equity sharing arrangement and the construction program for the naphtha cracker plant to be located in Bataan.

Without the plant, the country would remain dependent on importing raw materials for the petrochemical industry.

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE CONSUMER and Oil Price Watch yesterday called for a "standardized" pricing formula that the major oil companies can follow in determining price changes for oil products.

Raul T. Concepcion, the group's chair, said this would make oil pricing more transparent and avert debilitating protest actions.

This means adhering strictly to the principle of "direct cost recovery" as the basis for the change in the prices of petroleum products, Concepcion told reporters.

He explained that month-to-month price changes should be based only on the changes in crude oil prices and in the peso-dollar exchange rate.

Following this formula, Concepcion said the imminent oil price adjustment, announced recently by the major oil companies, would be significantly lower than the 90 centavos per liter quoted earlier.

One week left

"Hopefully, this would be between 60 to 70 centavos per liter only. But we still have one week left in June and prices are very volatile," Concepcion said.

Pilipinas Shell announced two weeks ago that rising crude oil prices and the continued deterioration of the peso against the dollar called for a 90-centavos-per-liter increase.

Petron, on the other hand, projected an increase of only 53 centavos per liter.

Shell's projection combined the rates for May and June while Petron's covered only those for May.

In a telephone interview, Shell vice president Reynaldo Gamboa said Shell's price increase might turn out to be lower than the 90 centavos per liter earlier projected.

Holding out

"We have seen a softening in world crude prices so we decided to hold out some more before we move our prices," Gamboa said.

But he pointed out that the peso continues to be weak.

Petron spokesperson Antonio Pelayo said whatever increase the company was contemplating would be based on May prices only.

"We are prepared to support anything that will make our pricing transparent, but it is the customers in the end who will judge whether it is so," Pelayo said in a press briefing.

The official said Concepcion's formula was based on that of the Energy Regulatory Board, which was the one used before the industry was deregulated.

Pelayo said Petron was ready to show to the public its pricing formula.

"We are a publicly listed company, we have to show our numbers according to the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission," he said.

He said the use of a standardized formula can be studied but that in the end, "(pricing) is a business decision."

CULTURAL CENTER ROW

SC cites PDI columnist for contempt

By Cathy C. Yamsuan

THE SUPREME Court has cited INQUIRER columnist Rina Jimenez-David for indirect contempt for two articles she wrote on the land dispute between the Cultural Center of the Philippines and the Republic Real Estate Corp. (RREC).

In a 14-page decision, the high tribunal noted that in David's At Large columns of July 11, 1997 and Feb. 12, 1998, she "was able to convey that this Court is susceptible to outside influence."

After quoting verbatim what it considered to be "derogatory statements" against it, the SC reprimanded David and warned that "a repetition of similar misconduct will be dealt with more severely."

The high court had consolidated a petition filed by the RREC to cite former CCP president Baltazar Endriga for contempt. This petition was denied.

The land dispute between the CCP and RREC dates back to 1959 when the Pasay City government and RREC entered into an agreement to reclaim foreshore lands in the city.

The national government filed an amended complaint before the Court of First Instance of Rizal questioning the agreement, claiming it was onerous.

The trial court dismissed the case in 1972, prompting the national government to take it to the Court of Appeals.

While the appeal was pending, then President Ferdinand Marcos issued a decree declaring that "the reclamation of areas under water, whether foreshore or inland, shall be limited to the national government or any person authorized by it under a proper contract."

In 1992, the CA affirmed the Rizal court's decision, with modifications.

It ordered the national government to turn over to Pasay City the ownership and possession of all vacant spaces in the 21-hectare area already reclaimed by the city government and RREC.

On Nov. 25, 1998, the SC ordered the national government to pay Pasay City and RREC P10,926,071.29 plus six percent interest per year from May 1, 1962.

From this decision stemmed the land dispute between RREC and the CCP, as the latter's building sits on reclaimed land in Pasay City.

In David's July 11, 1997 column, she noted that among those listed as majority stockholders of RREC were "such folk as former (Public Estates Authority) chief Ed Zialcita, a taipan like Al Yuchengco, a wannabe taipan like 'Don' Emilio Yap, actress Jackielou Blanco, and assorted wheeler-dealers."

David asked: "How else could you get all (of them) together in one room—much less into a corporation—unless they knew that they had a sure thing going? As the saying goes, '*Mabigat ang kalaban.*' ('The enemy is very influential.') Which doesn't make me at all optimistic about the CCP's chances before the Supreme Court.

In her Feb. 12, 1998 column, David wrote: "The real interesting story in this dispute is not whether RREC has a rightful claim to the land, but how certain forces and personalities in the Aquino and Ramos administrations seem bent on sabotaging the interests of the CCP—and therefore of the government—to favor a group of private investors."

The RREC complained that David's articles "tended to impede, obstruct or degrade the administration of justice" and that "they insulted the intelligence, sense of fairness and objectivity of the Supreme Court."

David countered that the articles were not intended to influence the court and that the statements she made constituted fair and legitimate opinions.

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OPINION

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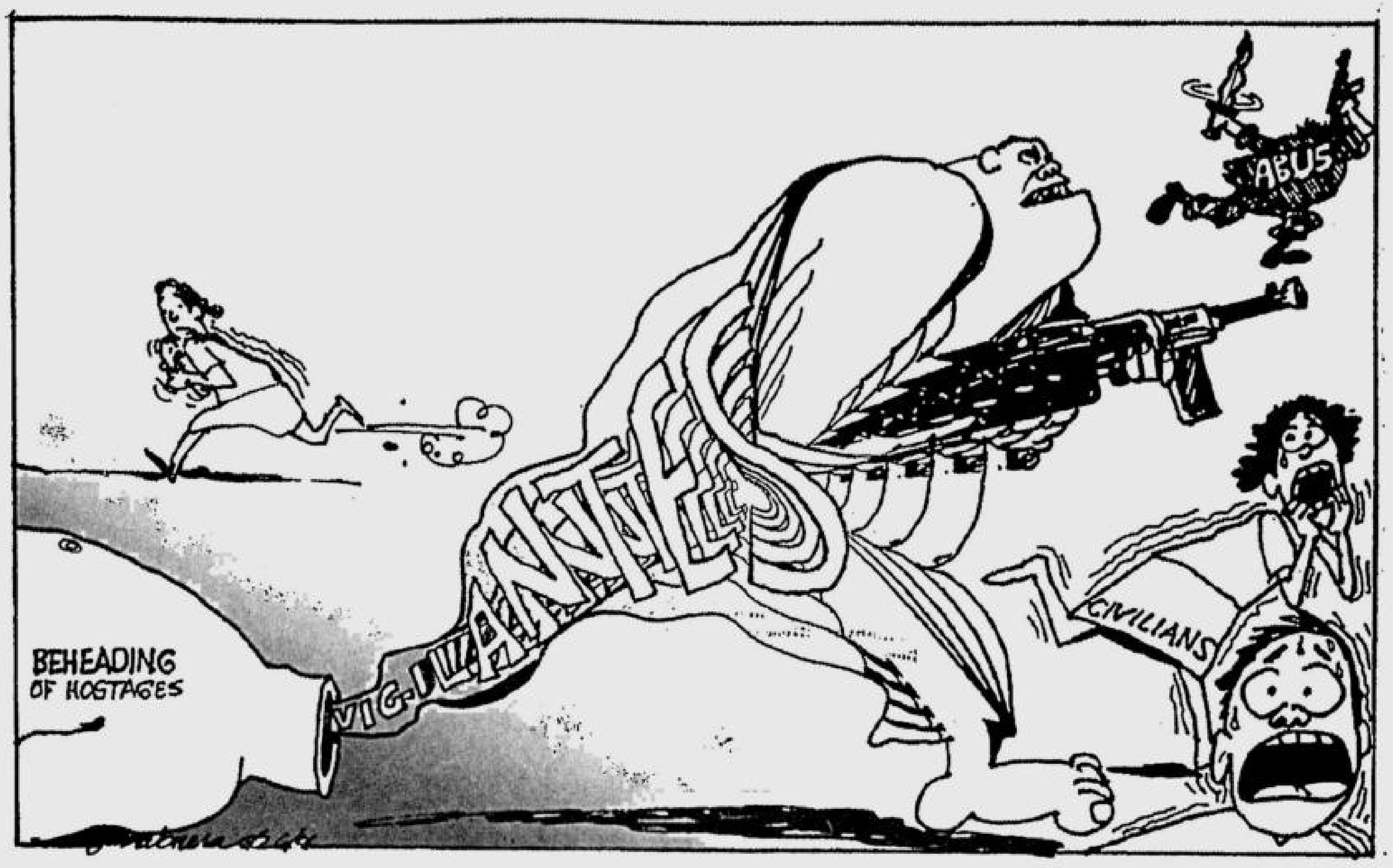

EDITORIALS

Wave of cynicism

THERE seems to be no end to the nation's woes. Even Nature seems to be conspiring against us. The other day, Mayon Volcano exploded, leaving thousands of people homeless and without means of livelihood. We can only thank God that as of yesterday, no one had been reported killed or injured by the eruption. But the needs of thousands of evacuees will have to be provided for.

Compared with the other bad things that are happening to the country, Mayon's eruption is (so far) a minor incident. The most lamentable development that is keeping the 76 million people of the country hostage is the hostage crisis which the Abu Sayyaf started last month. The crisis has affected the people's spirit and has weighed like a heavy stone on their psyche. Nothing seems to be moving while the government and the nation think of ways to stamp out the scourge that is the Abu Sayyaf.

The wire services say a sense of cynicism and despair has crept over the country. The psychological factor is bringing down the economy: the exchange rate has dropped below P52 to $1, the stock market remains bearish, investors are shying away from the country, tourism is down and the government has suffered a credit downgrade.

Kidnappers in Metro Manila are striking again, scaring Chinese-Filipino families so much that at one point many were reported to be preparing to leave for safer havens. Last week, it was disclosed that 47 Chinese-Filipinos had been kidnapped in Metro Manila alone. The kidnappings are the most prominent feature of a rising tide of criminality that includes a resurgence of bank robberies, slayings and the daily theft of cell phones.

More bad news may yet be forthcoming. President Macapagal last Friday warned of new trouble being planned in time for the arraignment of deposed President Joseph Estrada on Wednesday. The President's warning cannot be discounted, and it is best that the government, the Armed Forces, the police and the people are prepared for a new round of violence and unrest.

But in the short term and mid term, something has to be done to arrest the wave of cynicism, despair and resignation that is sweeping the nation. Life has to go on. The peace and order situation has to be brought under control. The economy has to be revived.

Positive thinking

PROBABLY, what the nation and the world have to be told is what Trade Secretary Mar Roxas recently told billionaire Jeffrey Koo, president of the Taiwan-Philippine Business Council. Roxas said that "notwithstanding the isolated incidents, 99 percent of the citizenry can still conduct business safely and cooperatively in the Philippines." And President Macapagal herself said that "we should not allow mere bandits to paralyze us."

But making statements is one thing and doing something about the problem is another. So far, the Armed Forces and the police, despite their numbers, are on the losing side in the fighting in Basilan. Many reasons have been given for this state of affairs: the Abu Sayyaf have the advantage of superior arms bought with the millions of dollars in ransom they got last year, they know the terrain, they are being helped by the people in the area and they are using the hostages as human shields.

The military experts have had time to study the problem. One lesson that they probably learned is that conventional, set battles will not do in this case where the bandits have adopted guerrilla hit-and-run tactics. Some other way of dealing with the highly mobile Abu Sayyaf will have to be devised. Probably, something similar to the tactic used by the Israeli commandos in their successful rescue of hostages at Entebbe.

Hand in hand with a modified military operation against the Abu Sayyaf and an intensified campaign against crime syndicates and gangs, the leaders of government will have to raise the morale of the people. Perhaps clues can be obtained from US President Franklin D. Roosevelt who revived the US economy after the crash of 1929 and lifted the sagging spirits of America after the debacle at Pearl Harbor. Roosevelt said in his inaugural speech, only four years after the crash of '29: "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself."

Now, in the Philippines the only thing we have to fear is paralysis, non-action, collapse. We cannot allow a group of bandits to keep us in a state of mental paralysis. We have to get out of the slough of despond and despair. We Filipinos won the Revolution of 1896 (although victory was snatched from us by the Americans), we survived the Japanese Occupation, the Marcos dictatorship and the Estrada presidency. Let us unleash the power of positive thinking and tell ourselves: We shall overcome all our problems in time and get back on the road to recovery.

Help gov't against destabilization plot

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THIS is no laughing matter anymore. The destabilization attempt against the Macapagal administration is real. Reliable sources told me that the attempt will start today (if it has not already started) with a vigil during the arraignment of former President Estrada for plunder charges at the Sandiganbayan on Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City. It will culminate in an "Edsa 3 1/2," according to intelligence reports, but it will not take place at Edsa but at Mendiola and Malacañang. The warm bodies will be mostly the urban poor to be supplied by political leaders of Erap.

Of course, the second storming of Malacañang will not succeed. The plot has been uncovered and the government is already well prepared for it. But that is not the real danger. The real danger will be the effect such an event will have on our economy and on our image in the world.

Who is the businessman who will invest his money in the Philippines which is fast becoming a banana republic? Who is the tourist who will spend his vacation money here which is reputed to be the kidnap capital of the world? The resulting instability will not only prevent new investors and tourists from coming here, it will prompt those who are already here to pack up and leave.

How reliable are the intelligence reports of an impending Edsa "3 ½"? Is President Macapagal again being misled as she was misled in the supposed bogus kidnapping of the daughter of Chinoy tycoon Robert Cheng for which boo-boo she was forced to eat humble pie and apologize? (It is regrettable that while the President was gracious enough to immediately apologize, the man who gave her the misleading information, Interior Secretary Joey Lina, did not and is, on the contrary, adamant.) My sources said no, but the discovery of the plot may force the plotters to change their plans, which would be a welcome development.

Who are the people behind this new plan to grab power? Who else?

Are they really that adventurous and desperate? Put yourself in the place of Erap. If you know that you're guilty and that you would most certainly spend a long time behind bars, what would you do? You would desperately grab anything that would save you, wouldn't you?

I am not saying that that is what Erap is doing. But he is capable of doing it. He has the money to pay the tens of thousands of gullible urban poor who are ready to lend their bodies to such an adventure. He has political leaders and followers who want so much to regain the power they lost that they would do anything to achieve that.

And President Macapagal, for all her tough talk, seems to be an easy prey. "Edsa III" almost succeeded; it failed only because it lacked a military component. And because it almost succeeded, the plotters are eager to try again. If pro-Erap forces get a military component this time, then the Macapagal administration would be in danger. The trouble is that some pro-Erap former officers still have loyal followers in the military because of long-time camaraderie. On the other hand, the President being still new on the job, has few fanatically loyal officers.

But another power grab at this time would be disastrous to the whole nation. The people should help their President prevent that.

But what can they do? First is to resist the temptation to accept money to join the pro-Erap demonstrations. You may need the money now but you and the rest of the nation would be in a worse condition if the destabilization efforts succeed. Instead show your support for the administration by joining the pro-government demonstrations. Be orderly; avoid violence and don't provoke the other side.

As for the military, remember that a coup attempt is treason punishable by death. Coups become a vicious cycle. If you succeed in grabbing power today, others will follow your example and grab that power from you tomorrow. And so forth and so on. No power-grabber ever lived long enough to enjoy what he grabbed. The lament of kings that "uneasy lies the head that wears the crown" also applies to coup artists. And don't think that you're too smart to be toppled. Like the gunfighters of the Old West, there's always somebody faster than you who would be gunning for you and get you finally.

As for Erap, my advice is to let the democratic processes take their course. If he is really innocent of the charges against him as he claims, then he would be acquitted. If he is guilty, then he should accept the punishment, repent and come out of the experience a better man. The people will forgive him if he admits his guilt and asks for forgiveness, as former rulers in the same situation in South Korea and Japan did.

Filipinos are a forgiving people. They believe in the saying that "To err is human, to forgive divine." What the people can't forgive is to be lied to and to be made fools of. And that is what pro-Erap forces are still trying to do: use and exploit the gullible people.

But you, the people, can be used and exploited only if you allow it. So don't.

Growing up gay

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

GROWING up gay in Cavite was not unlike growing up black in the Alabama of the 1950s, or probably even in the Alabama of today. Joel Lamangan did not exactly say it in those terms, but he suggested it. Cavite was macho country, and the greatest humiliation for a family was to have a *bakla* for one of its members. A humiliation that was promptly transferred to the offending member in beatings and other punishment. It was not unusual for those families to humiliate the offending member themselves in tireless efforts to try to correct his deviant, or perverse, ways.

Lamangan was not spared those unwanted attentions. I may be intruding upon his privacy to dwell on the details; I leave it to him to spell them out, if he should wish to. Suffice it to say here that he tried to show a straight face—literally!—when he was a kid, even becoming a corps commander in high school in a massive attempt at a cover-up. Even then, however, he was interested in the arts and used to direct high school plays, a fact that would confound his father to this day. His father, who is in his 90s now, and who either doesn't know or hasn't completely reconciled himself to his son's gayness, continues to wonder why his son has never gotten past directing high school plays, which is what he construes his current job to be.

In the Cavite of his time, and probably even of this time, Lamangan said, it was better to be Nardong Putik, Boy Pungay or any of the hoodlums Ramon Revilla played in the movies, than to be gay. It was better to be a *pusakal* than to be a *bakla*. The first was to earn respect, the second was to solicit derision.

Lamangan said these things in a forum sponsored by the Policy Review and Editorial Services office (Press), an NGO helping other NGOs in communications. The forum centered on how the local media, notably the movies and television, depicted and projected gays. The forum, held a week ago, was part of the celebrations of Gay Pride month. Lamangan was the main speaker. Ging Cristobal and Jonas Bagas, both proud gays, reacted to his talk.

Cristobal said Lamangan's observations applied to women gays as well. The extent of some parents' refusal to accept the gayness of their daughters was such that some of them even conspired to have them resolutely romanced or even raped to make them straight. That was helped in no small way by local movies that depicted the tomboy—stereotypically clad in polo shirt with the collar flipped up and the bottom tied into a knot—melting into a man's arms and metamorphosing into a "real woman" after she is forcibly kissed by him.

Bagas for his part said you didn't need to look very far to see the extent of the community's derision of gays. Edsa II itself, an enlightened enterprise carried out by presumably enlightened individuals, was not exempt from it. "Osmeña bakla!" screamed some of the signs, as well indeed as some of the emcees. Or they made jokes about Osmeña's seeming fondness for microphones which allowed him to discover one in a most unlikely spot in the Senate. Why couldn't the people huddled at Edsa last January call the objects of their opprobrium *tuta* or *tuso* or *bayaran*? asked Bagas. Why call them *bakla*, as though that were an even worse crime?

As in life, so in art—or what passes for art in TV and the movies. From the days of the young Dolphy, and probably long before, said Lamangan, gays have always appeared as freaks, not unlike those who appear in *peryas* (and gays themselves do appear plentifully in *peryas*, come to think of it), that audiences laugh at and not with. They are the people Joey de Leon and others routinely slap on the head or on the back presumably for comic effect. But which indeed seems to produce that effect: audiences laugh. Many of the gays themselves who portray those kinds of roles in the sitcoms and the movies do not feel oppressed. Most find it a good living, some find the attention—notoriety and fame are not always so easy to distinguish, least of all in show biz—flattering.

All of which has convinced the marketing department of the networks and the movie producers, who really call the shots in TV and the movies, to frown on any effort to make a serious TV program or movie about homosexuality, or even to depict gay characters in a more complex light. As far as they're concerned, gays are comic figures, period.

The lack of success of movies like "Pusong Mamon" and "Markova" has not helped to disabuse them of the thought. Though the television networks and the movie studios teem with gays—if the gays in show biz held a strike, says Lamangan, the entire industry would ground to a halt: you would be hard put to find a scriptwriter or director—they have not become a force to reckon with the way their counterparts in America and Europe have. Lamangan recently proposed to have a gay judge in a TV courtroom drama. The marketing people shot it down.

How to change things? How to overcome prejudice? How to get the community's respect the way other human beings routinely do?

It's not easy, Lamangan and Cristobal and Bagas agree. Lamangan despairs of seeing it in his lifetime. The Catholic Church, in particular, is a formidable barrier to gays being accepted by or integrated into the community, which is what they really want. Progressive priests and nuns are the minority. The majority consists of people who regard homosexuality as an affront to the eyes of God (who, not quite incidentally, is believed to be male) and gays as unrepentant sinners who ought to be cast into a sea of fire, the better for the world to be cleansed or purified.

Lamangan though, like other victims of monumental prejudice, cannot for the life of him understand how people can fail to grasp so seemingly simple an idea as that gays are human beings, too. That gays are no better or worse than you and me. That gays are just like you and me.

Why should one's being gay make him any less human? Lamangan waxes passionate. Being gay is a condition of being, it is not an affliction. You do not judge a heterosexual man or woman by the fact that he is a man or woman. You judge him by the fact that he has been a good citizen, a good artist or scientist, a good human being. Why do you judge gays by the fact that they are gay? Why do you not judge them by the fact that they have been good citizens, good artists and scientists, good human beings? You do not bury a heterosexual man with the words, "Here lies a real man." Why do you insist on burying gays, if metaphorically, with the words, "So-and-So: bakla"?

Good point. But come to think of it, it **would** be a wonderful epitaph to have from quite another perspective, from the perspective of prideful affirmation. "He was gay." You can't pare it to the bone any closer than that.

No one has numbers in Senate race

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE PHILIPPINE National Police's proposal that the trial of former President Joseph Estrada be held at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center, where he is now confined, deserves the public's support. Many weeks ago I aired this idea of a "hospital trial" together with a "hospital arrest" for Estrada, but it didn't get an enthusiastic reception from various quarters. Now the PNP is advocating this idea after it realized how difficult it would be to transport Estrada to and from the Sandiganbayan in Quezon City from the hospital or Fort Sto. Domingo in Laguna. According to PNP estimates, about 2,000 policemen would be tied up in securing the travel of Estrada, a force which should be running after criminals.

* * *

The premises of the Sandiganbayan are a mess now, with all the traffic caused by the House of Representatives and the folly of Mayor Mel Mathay in allowing a market to crop up next to the court. Throw in Estrada's convoy and there would be unmanageable pandemonium every day, putting him and so many others in peril. Holding the trial at the VMMC auditorium is the most sensible arrangement. And yes, let's have the trial under the full glare of TV.

Incidentally, a friend showed me a copy of a poster that has sprouted all over Navotas and Malabon, showing Estrada in a *salakot*, with the words "Angat Pinoy 2004." It was obviously timed to appear for the arraignment tomorrow of the former president. Because they were found in those places, speculations are that Sen. Tessie Oreta, a diehard Estrada supporter, has something to do with those posters.

* * *

At the reception for newlyweds Neny Montinola and Mandy Eduque III last Saturday, I ran into Sen. Frank Drilon and his wife Mila. To my query about the intensifying race for the Senate presidency, Drilon replied that "whoever in the Senate claims that he has the needed 13 votes is lying." He said that at the moment no one has the numbers and that it will necessitate the alliance of several blocs to win the top post.

Two weeks ago I reported on the formation of small blocs by various senators for purposes of positioning and driving a hard bargain for committees. Indeed, the Senate race is not unlike a crossword puzzle that's looking for the magic hand that would put the pieces in place.

Pundits opine that while there appears to be a three-cornered fight among Senate President Nene Pimentel, Sen. Rene Cayetano and Drilon, in reality the choice has been narrowed down to Pimentel and Drilon. But the senators shouldn't delay the jockeying too long. Too much politicking looks bad for a nation facing a lot of serious problems, now including the eruption of Mayon.

* * *

The wedding of Neny, daughter of Serge Montinola and the former Ching de las Alas, and Mandy Eduque III brought together some of Manila's oldest families to St. James the Great Parish in Ayala, Alabang, and the reception at the sprawling home of the groom's stepfather, Benito "Bomboy" Araneta. That's probably what made that wedding really nice: the fact that most guests knew one another pretty well; in fact, many of them were related to each other. For instance, the Aranetas are related to the Tuasons, including Mike Arroyo's mother. Some years back the Aranetas had a reunion organized by Tonypet Araneta in Molo, Iloilo, where the clan began before the patriarch, Don Gregorio Araneta, moved to Manila, and so many relatives showed up whom the clan members didn't even know. The Aranetas of Manila are distantly related to the Visayan Aranetas, led by Judy Roxas and Nene Araneta. I suppose this closeness is what makes Filipino weddings truly special—and a disaster to the pocketbook.

* * *

Despite the rain, several hundred guests fitted into the Araneta's home, where an air-conditioned white tent was set up for the elegant dinner catered by La Tasca, which is run by the Aranetas. Serge was seeing his fourth daughter, who was radiant in a Pepito Albert pastel green gown, get married but that didn't stop him from shedding tears, for Neny is said to be his favorite (he still has two single daughters—twins). The bride's mom, FVR's former Senate liaison officer Ching Montinola, was too busy attending to the guests to feel sad about losing a daughter.

The home of Bomboy Araneta is staggering if only because of the sheer size of the lot. But to me what makes it so appealing, apart from the green manicured lawns, is the huge majestic mango tree right in the middle of the circular driveway, one of the many trees that used to abound in that part of Alabang a long time ago. That night the tree was ablaze with *capiz* lanterns and giant *dapo* plants and ferns.

* * *

Today is the 26th anniversary of the death of Blessed Josemaria Escriva, the founder of Opus Dei. Masses will be celebrated in his memory in various churches around the country, principally at the Manila Cathedral tonight at 6 p.m. Masses will also be offered today at Hillsboro, Alabang, at 5:30 p.m. and Teachers' Village, Quezon City, 6:30 p.m.; tomorrow, at the Divine Mercy chapel in Xavierville, Quezon City, 6 p.m., and St. Martin de Pores Church in Parañaque, 6:30 p.m.; Thursday at Sacred Heart Parish in Makati and St. Joseph's Parish on Aurora Boulevard Quezon City, both at 6 p.m.; and Friday at St. Peter's Church, Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City, 8 a.m. and St. Joseph the Worker Church in Palanan, Makati, 9 a.m.

* * *

By the time Msgr. Escriva, a Spaniard by birth, died in Rome at nearly 74 years of age in 1975, fully united to the Pope and the bishops, Opus Dei, the personal prelature that he founded in 1928 in Madrid, had grown to more than 60,000 members among men and women from all walks of life in over 80 countries. The Work, as it is called, keeps growing. Its attraction for the faithful lies in the fact that Blessed Escriva opened a new way for them to sanctify themselves right where they are, in the middle of the world, by doing their work, which he called the "hinge of their sanctification," as perfectly as they can. He preached that by fulfilling their personal, family and social duties the best way they can and offering them to God, the faithful become a leaven of intense Christian life in all environments.

Blessed Escriva is buried under the main altar at the elegant Church of Our Lady of Peace in Rome. Six years after his death, the cause of his beatification was started. On a brilliant morning in May of 1992, he was beatified at St. Peter's Square in Rome amid the tolling of church bells and the prayers of tens of thousands of his spiritual sons and daughters. Their prayer is that Opus Dei founder will be elevated to sainthood during their lifetime.

Crossing the line

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

EARLY this month, a woman broadcaster by the name of Blesilda Ugtal, officer-in-charge of the FM radio station "Radyo Natin" in Calbayog City, went to see Dr. Emmanuel Rosales, a cardiologist, for consultation. Ugtal would later claim that in the course of a physical exam, Rosales touched her breast in an unseemly manner.

If the incident did indeed take place, and if Ugtal did feel she had been sexually harassed and taken advantage of by the doctor, her next step should have been to report Rosales to his superiors, to the Philippine Medical Association, to the police, or the nearest barangay official. But apparently, she has done none of these things.

What Ugtal has resorted to, instead, has been to accuse Rosales on her radio show "Heart to Heart." At first, she treated the "news" as a blind item, not referring to the doctor by name, and even claiming that the incident was "reported" to her by an unnamed victim. In later broadcasts, she would admit that she had been the one victimized, and that the doctor was "a cardiologist at the St. Camillius Clinic."

In a letter to the management of Manila Broadcasting Co., which owns "Radyo Natin," a brother of Dr. Rosales claims that when Ugtal identified the doctor in this manner, it became clear that he was the alleged culprit. He is the city's only cardiologist and belongs to a prominent and respected local family. "She was barraged by a number of callers for the evident lies she was peddling," writes Dante Rosales. And recordings of her radio show reveal that she was "irked by the support the community gave to the doctor."

Most recently, Ugtal's story came to the attention of Deo Macalma of dzRH, "Radyo Natin's" mother station. In his morning public affairs show, Macalma lashed out at the doctor, calling him unsavory names, and making, as the brother put it, "a sweeping judgment" on his person over national radio.

* * *

DR. ROSALES hails from a prominent Calbayog family. His father is a retired judge active in church affairs and a papal awardee. His mother is a retired public school teacher. The doctor is the oldest in the family, and one of his sisters was recently elected to the provincial board.

Together with his wife Flora, Dr. Rosales trained for a medical specialty in Manila, he in cardiology and she in obstetrics and gynecology. But, being natives of Calbayog, they both decided to practice in their hometown, accepting an offer this year from the Italian Missionary Order to set up a clinic at the St. Camillius Hospital.

Prominent citizens who have signed a petition in support of Rosales cite an important factor on which they base their belief in the doctor's innocence.

Husband and wife, it turns out, hold consultations in two separate but adjacent cubicles inside a single big room. From the doorway, or even the hospital corridor, say his supporters, one can easily glimpse the examination table of Dr. Emmanuel Rosales. And on the morning Ugtal came for the consultation during which she claims Dr. Rosales touched her in an unprofessional manner, his wife was holding clinic in the adjacent cubicle.

* * *

OF COURSE, if Ugtal's story is true, this would not be the first time that a medical practitioner would have abused his profession and position to take advantage of a client or patient. There's a radiologist in a city in Mindanao, for instance, who as a matter of routine would tell his gullible female patients that part of the procedure was an internal exam of their reproductive organs. And what of the male OB-Gyn who would "routinely" perform oral stimulation on his patients?

But the ensuing controversy over Ugtal's claims and Dr. Rosales' defense also highlights the dilemma that many medical professionals face. To give a competent and accurate diagnosis, they have to touch their patients, oftentimes in sensitive areas. When does professionalism cross the line into voyeurism, if not outright abuse?

Male nurses have told me of male relatives of female patients who threaten to sue them, if not break them in half, for "daring" to give the women sponge baths. To protect themselves from possible suits, male doctors examining female patients now ask their female nurses or a female companion of the patient to stay in the examination room with them.

What next? In the name of self-defense, will doctors now be forced to follow the example of their colleagues in Afghanistan? Because they aren't allowed to see the bodies of female patients, male doctors often have to rely on the "observations" of the women's male relatives, and from these observations, they're forced to make diagnoses and come up with treatment options. This has raised the hackles of the medical community in Afghanistan, since such restrictions have resulted in the unnecessary deaths of women.

* * *

IF UGTAL really felt Dr. Rosales had crossed the line in the course of examining her, and if she felt strongly aggrieved, she should have, as I said earlier, brought the matter formally to an appropriate body which could properly investigate her allegations. It would have been the fair and just thing to do, since the procedure would not only allow the doctor to present evidence in his defense, but also help establish the parameters of doctor-patient relationships.

But by accusing the doctor first through innuendo and blind-items, and then by a constant stream of abusive language on her radio show, Ugtal seems to have crossed the line herself, from professionalism to engaging in what seems to be a personal vendetta. What seems to be her point? Is it to prevent other women from ever consulting Dr. Rosales or other male doctors? If so, then she would be preventing women from exercising the full range of options open to them when they seek the best treatment available.

Role models

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

AT A TIME in our history when the negativism of Murphy's Law appears to be pervasive, Ingrid Sala Santamaria is a ray of hope. If Filipinos outside the cultural field haven't heard of her, it's time they did because her work with musically talented but underprivileged children of Cebu needs to be told. She has not been known to go around saying "*Ingrid para sa mahirap*"; the truth is there isn't any need to broadcast your work unless you're out to exploit other people or you've got a very low self-esteem.

What Ingrid did a decade ago was develop a youth orchestra by seeking out gifted but poor children who would benefit from scholarship grants from the Salvador and Pilar Sala Foundation. The scholarship grants included tuition, clothing allowance, transportation, meals and pocket money. First she started by looking for instruments, then for scholars.

Pablo Tariman laughs when he remembers that Ingrid first focused on the bands of the firemen and police, but the members usually got drunk and were asleep by afternoon. As a result, Ingrid went from barrio to barrio in Cebu seeking out the children.

In 1995 the Cebu Youth Symphony Orchestra was born and concentrated on outreach programs to other provinces. The curriculum included a two-month intensive music camp every year and the participation not just of Filipino conductors and soloists but guest artists from Japan, Great Britain, Spain, Germany and Italy. It was elevated to a philharmonic orchestra in October of 2000 and "has been designated as the national orchestra in Southern Philippines."

Curiously enough, the support is coming from Manila and overseas rather than from Cebu, which may explain why the orchestra has been rechristened as Peace Philharmonic Philippines rather than Cebu Philharmonic, as expected.

Just to show you what this woman has done, there are nine members playing Violin I, 10 playing Violin II, four viola, seven cello, five bass, three flute, three oboe, two clarinet, two bassoon, two French horn, three trumpet, three trombone, one tuba, three percussion. As far as I can ascertain there is no subsidy coming from government, national or local. (Don't you find it amazing that we are so often told how poor we are and how there's no money, and yet when one of those all too frequent scams come to light, we learn that hundreds of millions and even billions have been pocketed?)

Volunteer music teachers have come from Japan under the Philippine-Japan Volunteer Exchange program and JICA, "composed of youthful music instructors in violin, oboe, French horn, cello among others."

Significantly, recognition came from abroad first. In 1998, the CYSO was the subject of a TV documentary by the Japanese network Nippon Hoso Kyokai (NHK) that was aired all over Asia.

Government leaders may have taken notice though since the Peace Philharmonic Philippines performed during the vin d'honneur on June 12 at Malacañang, a singular honor and a feather in the cap both for the orchestra and its artistic director. Moreover, its opening season concert at the Cultural Center of the Philippines is dedicated to the centenary of the Philippine judiciary (1901-2001). Everyone's favorite Supreme Court Chief Justice, Hilaro Davide, is of course a Cebuano from Argao (an absolutely lovely town with a gorgeous colonial church unless the lily's been gilded since I last looked).

This year after its Manila tour, the PPP will travel to Dumaguete, Bohol and Tagbilaran playing Tapales, Berlioz, Schubert and Tedesco, "enhancing its vision and mission of attaining peace, friendship and goodwill through the universal language of music." Ingrid would like to bring them to Mindanao but a couple of eyebrows were raised at the idea, although Ingrid says everyone knows musicians haven't got any money so kidnapping them would be useless.

A visiting Japanese conductor will join Coke Bolipata for PPP's fourth concert, a Beethoven Festival first in Cebu and then in that other gorgeous church in Loboc. (NCCA Chair Jaime Laya proposed the restoration of the antique organ of the church but was allegedly opposed by NHI Chair Pablo Trillana, who cited the separation of Church and State, although the State recognized Loboc as a landmark. And so it goes. Don't expect to see any improvement in the cultural field with all the warring factions and everyone scrambling to get on the bandwagon. Tiresome.)

But as I was saying about Ingrid; we go back nearly 40 years when she and I used to live in Malate and would share a cab to go to our teaching jobs at the International School. She quit before I did to devote herself to playing the piano eight hours a day which I thought rather much but Ingrid's like that—disciplined. Her Cebuano childhood friends say that they used to try and get her to join them to play after school but Ingrid truly believed that duty, i.e., practicing the piano, came first.

I haven't gotten around to asking her why she's doing what she's doing. Suffice it to say she did mention that to these children, the scholarship grants are a lifeline. So the next time anyone mentions National Artist award, shouldn't Ingrid Santamaria's name come up?

A speck of light

YOUNGBLOOD

C. Lene

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

DO you sometimes wonder where you inherited some characteristics you have? I do, and so do my parents. "*Saan ka kaya nagmana?*" my father often asks, and my mother would answer for me: "*Ambot lang, asa kaha nâ nagliwat!*" (I really don't know whom she took after.) You see, my mother is Cebuana and my father is Kapampangan, but I'm not sure that explains the character traits they want to disown.

It's not my physical characteristics that puzzle us. Up to now people are amazed at how closely I resemble my father. But just for the record, when she was younger, my mother's vital statistics (and her stunning face, of course) was something men wished their girlfriends had. I can never match Mama's 23-inch waistline then, but now she insists that I am too thin. And she says it isn't healthy, and so I have to gain some pounds. To do so, she says I must get rid of some bad habits like sleeping from sunset till noontime on weekends and during vacation, eating at odd hours and, most of all, "grumbling excessively" about our country's politicians every time we watch the news on TV. She has even warned me that if I didn't drop these habits, there would be no more Internet and no more novels, and, worst of all, she would call me "Miriam"!

Mama says I must start to develop a positive attitude and stop worrying about politics. She probably thinks I have become as negative as an electron, but I'm not, or else I wouldn't be hoping for better days to come.

"Baby *ka pa*!" my father would often chime in. But I suppose every parent thinks his child is a baby, no matter how many birthdays the child has had.

My family is surprised that I am concerned about what's happening in this country. No relative of ours has ever been in politics, except for one distant cousin who lives very far from us. I was not even aware of his existence until the time father told us over dinner that my cousin wanted him to be his campaign manager. Papa, of course, turned down that request.

You see, my parents hardly talk about politics. It's not that they don't care; they are just apolitical. So you can imagine their surprise when I started talking about politics.

At first they were amused, but now they would keep me from listening to the news or reading the newspaper, if they could. "You're a kid and you ought to have fun!" Papa told me once.

Fun. They probably think I am too young to understand what's happening around. But the thing is, maybe I do understand. I put to use my eyes and my brain, and I am able to distinguish right from wrong and take a stand. And somehow this makes me a stronger person. It prepares me for any battles I may have to fight in the future. I know there isn't always a happy ending, but I know God knows what's right for us. I do not like the idea of being shielded from the truth just because I may not yet be able to handle leaving the land of fairy tales behind.

When I was turning 12, Joseph Estrada was elected president. That was the time I started reading newspapers. As soon as I got home from school I would start reading the papers before changing from my uniform. My father would chuckle when he saw me turn to the business section to check out the exchange rate of the peso. But back then I was not very vocal with my opinions.

Then came Edsa II.

I was in second year. I found out that some people had the same ideas and interests as mine. That was what encouraged to say out loud what I thought, sometimes hurting others in the process. I suppose it was part of growing up. But it wasn't just us kids who were going through maturation. So was our country.

Edsa was many seas away from me, but the mass protests all over the country for the same cause opened the opportunity for me to take part in an event that would shape history and set me on the course of becoming an activist. I knew activism wasn't a career option my parents would approve of (I don't even know if it is really a career option, in the first place). But I just had to take an active part in the protest actions against the Estrada administration.

It wasn't just about me or for me. It wasn't just about my future. It was for everyone: my parents, my siblings, my entire family, my school, businessmen, fishermen, students, doctors and the sick, the employed and the unemployed, the educated and the illiterate, the babies and the old folks, Christians, Muslims, atheists, etc. So I really had to go out there and do what I had to do.

But I didn't. I wasn't as gutsy as I thought I was. I wasn't ready. I wasn't strong. Probably I never had that stuff in me at all. That's a very depressing thought.

Failing to join the rallies is the biggest regret I have in my short life. So what if classes weren't suspended? So what if our Biology teacher threatened to bring down our already pathetic grades if we took part in any rally against her idol who was not exerting any effort to improve our country's pitiful condition and was instead creating division among our people? So what if the school administration was doing everything to suppress the students' right to voice out their anger and frustration? My country's well-being was far more important than the numbers on my report card.

I wish I wasn't so grade-conscious and so scared of not meeting my parents' expectations. I wish I mustered the courage to disobey my teachers for then I would have done them a favor even if they didn't think about it that way. But I don't want to go on wishing I had done this or that as it only heightens my sense of disappointment and guilt.

Still I hope and pray that all of us will have the strength to carry on despite the problems we face and not bicker over petty things while others suffer. I hope we will never forget all that has happened in the past and weigh things carefully before making decisions. We have had more than enough of bitter experiences already.

I am looking forward to the day when our leaders are not elected just because they are celebrities, and these leaders do not use the desperate, the innocent and hungry to mask and justify wrongdoing. I yearn for the day when the most popular criminal will be punished like the poorest person, clamped in a tiny cell; when marginalized sectors do not have to rise up in revolt before they are given attention; when there are no rebels who justify their brutality by invoking noble causes; when no one will use campaign streamers as diapers or blankets after election day; when we don't have to hold our breath on account of the garbage scattered all over the street. And I hope the time will never come when members of my family will be forced to leave our home and to look for jobs in foreign countries.

As I reread that last paragraph, I begin think that maybe I'm not the grown-up I think I am. Those are big dreams. Big because I am not sure if they'll happen in my lifetime. Big because the future doesn't look very bright.

Still I see a speck of light in our future, and I'm counting on seeing it grow very much brighter.

C. Lene, 14, is a high school junior in Cebu City.

Notice to Youngblood contributors

Contributors to Youngblood who haven't received their checks are requested to inquire with the PDI cashier on Friday.

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Responsible use of biotechnology

THE PASTORAL statement of Jaime Cardinal Sin on agricultural genetic engineering comes at a very opportune time when the Philippine government and the public are faced with issues on the use of modern biotechnology. The pastoral letter is a beacon of light that guides us to reflect on our responsibilities here on earth. While God has endowed man with intelligence and the power of dominion over creation, he should not lose sight of the higher purpose of these gifts and be aware of their limitations. As with other forms of knowledge, science and technology should be "placed at the service of man and promote his integral development for the benefit of all."

With reference to biotechnology, the letter acknowledges its "noble desire to combat hunger, poverty and diseases." However, it also cautions against possible detrimental effects on human health, environmental safety, and other socio-cultural and economic values when misused or abused.

The Biotechnology Conference of the Philippines (BCP) lauds the cardinal for his timely words of wisdom. We fully subscribe to the safe and responsible use of modern biotechnology. As the pastoral statement puts it, "Genetic engineering is acceptable only if all risks are minimized; otherwise one may easily succumb to temptations of productivity and profit at the expense of the people and the environment." Thus, the BCP was formed to advocate for, among others, biotech policies that are "based on science and socio-economic realities, promote good health and sanitation, promote sustainable development, and address equity considerations" (BCP Objectives).

To give fuller meaning and support to the cardinal's pastoral letter, the BCP recommends the following:

1. Public discussions on modern biotechnology should be divided between those that involve human health and environment (or biosafety) issues and those that involve economic, cultural and ethical considerations. The first set of issues is primarily science-based and should be evaluated on these terms. The second set of concerns involves policy decisions that are fundamentally sociopolitical. The government can best address these concerns by involving all relevant stakeholders in the formulation of policies.

2. The national government should ensure that endogenous capacities are built up to facilitate the implementation of biosafety guidelines and regulations. An effective regulatory mechanism would ensure that risks to human health and environmental safety are properly assessed and managed. Public resources should also be allocated to find the development of local expertise in modern biotechnology. This will address concerns raised on possible abuse by multinational companies by enabling Filipinos to own and control these technologies.

3. Field trials on genetically engineered crops should continue. Only through the means and processes afforded by actual field trials performed under local conditions can we scientifically evaluate the safety of biotechnology products.

We reiterate our full support for the call of Cardinal Sin for the responsible and safe use of agricultural biotechnology. We pray that his pastoral statement will set the tone for more enlightened and enlightening discussions on modern biotechnology in the Philippines.—**BENIGNO D. PECZON, head convenor, Biotechnology Conference of the Philippines, c/o Biotechnology Association of the Philippines Inc., Unilab, 66 United St., Mandaluyong City**

LETTERS

Savages and barbarians

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

THE RESPONSE to my article about the ROTC (Reserve Officers Training Corps) article last Thursday was overwhelming: 46 e-mailed letters as of Sunday, with several readers urging more articles on this topic.

I still want to hear some more from the readers. Some have written to ask that the high school CAT be abolished as well so I'd welcome letters about that program.

I also want to assure the readers that I will keep their names confidential. Several letter-writers requested anonymity in case I used their letters, saying they were fearful of reprisals from their ROTC officers. That fear tells us a lot about where the ROTC is today.

Let's leave the topic of the ROTC for now and move to the problem of racism. I've been bothered for many years by Filipinos' racism, and often wondered why we can be so vicious about other "races" when we ourselves are often the targets of racial discrimination. Now I suspect this racism came through us through anthropological theories propagated through our educational system.

The other week I picked up a book titled "Complete Geography Philippine Edition," published in New York in 1915. The book was an adaptation of an American geography textbook reviewing the physical features, culture and population of each country in the world. The Philippine edition has an additional chapter describing our archipelago.

In the book's introductory chapter there is a section called "Stages of Man's Progress," summarizing a 19th century theory first proposed by the British anthropologist Edward Tylor on how societies evolve. According to this theory, human societies move from savagery to barbarism to civilization, each stage with its own characteristics. The geography book describes people as civilized "when they can read and write and when education is to some extent generally diffused." Civilization is also measured by "the great development of industries and the use of labor-saving machines."

The book describes savages as being dependent on hunting and fishing, wearing little clothing and using chipped stone tools and bows and arrows. Barbarians are supposed to be less dependent on nature, having domesticated animals and cultivated plants but living "in tents or rude houses."

Now for the clincher. After learning about the differences among these three stages, we read that "Most of the white races have reached the highest stage of progress. Most of the yellow, brown and red races have reached a lower stage of civilization. Most of the black race are in the barbarous or savage stage."

The chapter on the Philippines describes our population in terms that fit into that scheme of savages, barbarians and the civilized. The Negritos, according to the book "are small black people...They have flat noses, thick lips and wooly hair. They can use their toes almost as well as their fingers. The only clothing they wear is a strip around the loins."

The next section is about "The Pagan or Wild Tribes," a term used to include the Negritos, the Igorots and the Moros. The descriptions of the Moro are the most offensive, including this passage: "When one of them tires of life he shaves off his eyebrows, takes a vow before a priest and runs 'amuck,' killing as many Christians as he can until he himself is killed."

The final section on the Filipino people is about Christians. Here, we learn that "The word 'Filipino,' as generally used, includes only the civilized and Christianized people." The golden standard is set there, described in terms of being civilized and Christianized. With that classification system in place, the book then describes the different provinces, with the population broken down to the number of "civilized" and "wild" people.

Who knows how many Filipino schoolchildren, mostly lowland Christians, learned about our country and the world with these racist descriptions, and passed them on to other generations of Filipinos, together with the images propagated by the book's photographs. The section on our population features a picture of a Negrito hunter with a bow and arrow, an "Igorot warrior" holding a spear and "Moro men" holding their kris.

I am not saying the American colonial period alone was responsible for stereotyping. At least the American geography textbook refers to the "wild" tribes as constituting 650,000 souls; during censuses conducted by the Spaniards, the "pagans" were not counted at all, i.e., they had no souls.

I suspect that even in the precolonial period, the lowlanders also had their own forms of discrimination against the people in the mountains. Notions of the wild and the uncivilized existed for many centuries, but were given pseudoscientific status through Western notions about "race" and "social progress." The colonizers used racism to justify their conquests—after all, they were the civilized people out to tame the savages and barbarians.

In countries like the Philippines, racism was to mix with older prejudices based on religion, ethnicity and class, used by the colonizers and local elite to keep the population divided. These prejudices continue to thrive today in our descriptions of "natives" and the "uneducated," exacerbating the social conflicts we have and keeping us from achieving nationhood.

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.org

Why privatize a private fund like SSS?

THE CONFEDERATION for Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees (Courage) would like to answer Honesto General's column titled "What's wrong with privatizing SSS?" (PDI, 6/11/01)

Everything is wrong about privatizing the Social Security System. As one SSS vice president put it, why should the government privatize a private fund such as the SSS which is owned by its over 11 million workers/members? What right do SSS officials and President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo have to do this? It does not matter if the plan involves a partial privatization of the investments and IT functions. The point is, hard-earned money from workers contributed to the SSS should not be put in the hands of profiteers to earn huge profits for themselves.

General is right in saying that privatizing pension funds is a worldwide trend. Yes, because it is an imposition of the IMF-WB to provide more capital to multi-national corporations. Indeed SSS funds running to billions of pesos are a huge investable fund. That's why investment functions is the first target of SSS privatization.

The private sector is interested in the IT function not only because it is also a profitable business but also because information on 11 million Filipinos is power. A potential market for their other products.

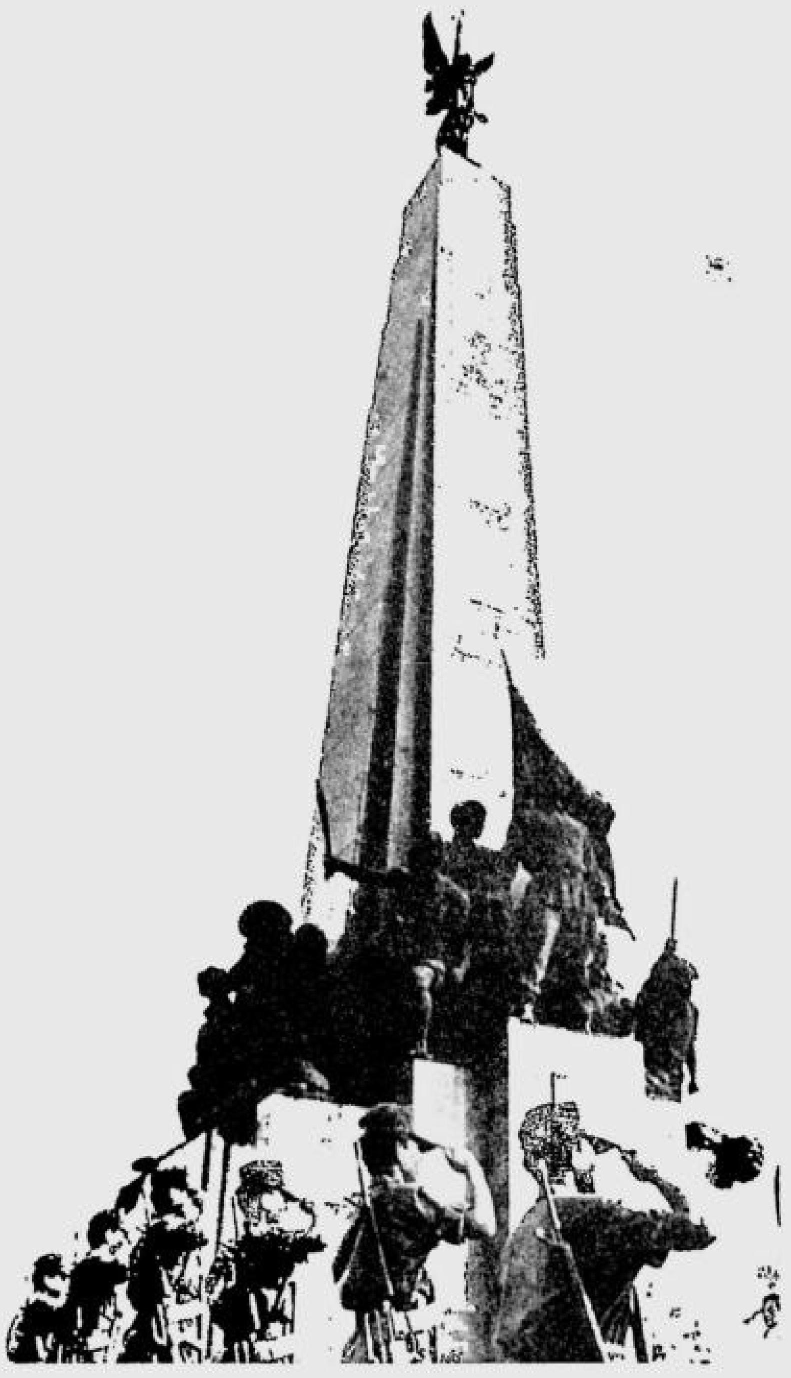
Where were Access, Courage and KMU when then President Estrada was plundering the SSS funds? Courage was busy campaigning against privatization and the ouster of Estrada. General is misinformed in claiming that he was the only one screaming to high heavens while Estrada was plundering SSS funds.

He might have forgotten that this was one of the reasons why Estrada was ousted. Maybe General was the one who was absent at that time. Courage and its affiliates were and still are active in the campaign against the wrong use of GSIS and SSS funds because of its unity and support for the issues of the workers in the private sector.

Courage started its campaign against privatization in 1989, more than a decade ago. It led a strike against the sale of the Mepolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, fought the power bill, blocked the privatization of the National Food Authority and many more. Where was General in all of these?

Do not take it against Access and Courage if we are concerned about the job security of 5,000 SSS employees. Just like General, we want to retire at the proper time and also enjoy the fruits of our long and hard work as ordinary employees. We are also fighting for rights of the 500,000 government employees who were laid off because of privatization.

Lastly, the interest of the retirees as beneficiaries of the SSS and Government Service Insurance System is among our priority concerns, and this is why we are against the privatization of the SSS. The employees of the SSS, Courage and KMU will fight for higher retirement benefits despite General.—**FERDINAND GAITE, national president, Confederation for Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees (Courage), 9-1, K-F St., Kamuning, Quezon City**



Bonifacio monument has to be saved

AS A SEMINARIAN in Polo, Bulacan, four decades ago, I used to pass the Monumento as it was known by the *masa*, and—appreciated the handiwork of our great artist Guillermo Tolentino. The majestic, imposing obelisk with an angel on top was so inspiring when there were no ugly commercial buildings obstructing the view.

Today, approaching the monument is almost as risky as going to Lamitan in Basilan. You wouldn't know if you can cross the street in one piece. Gone is the wide panorama that made the Cry of Balintawak a sight to behold. The wet market, sidewalk hawkers and the gaudy and garish multistory shopping malls do not do justice to a work of art.

Let Tolentino's work be appreciated by all at the Luneta before the Light Rail Transit and greed bury it in obscurity. Neal H. Cruz is right. Once upon a time, "It was a good site originally. The monument welcomed the traveler from the provinces to the metropolis."

Now the Bonifacio Monument has become an obscure landmark. Let us save it by placing it where our people can appreciate the genius of Tolentino and the struggle of the Katipuneros to emancipate us from political colonial domination.—**SAMUEL P. FERNANDEZ, Polytechnic University of the Philippines, Sta. Mesa, Manila**

Offsetting educational shortages

SINCE we lack classrooms, textbooks and teachers, why not supplement them with the use of idle movie houses, filmed lectures and learning facilitators?

Most movie houses are not used in the mornings, and they all have film projectors. It is very easy to produce filmed lectures of the best teachers and with the large seating capacities of movie houses, even a few teachers can form a pool of learning facilitators.

Cable TV could also be used as supplements to movie houses, using filmed lectures fed via local CATV providers. Since there are always extra unused cable channels, we could even have a dedicated channel for every school subject.

For that matter, if TV sets are available, filmed lectures could also be delivered using either VHS or Betamax formats. Surplus TV sets and VHS/Betamax players are available in the market for about P3,000 each. I am sure some civic-minded alumni or clubs will be willing to donate these to the local public schools.

Computers could also be used as supplements to textbooks, either offline using CD-ROMs, or online using the Internet.

If we have limited funds for classrooms and textbooks, then perhaps we should just invest these funds in affordable multimedia learning laboratories equipped with some computers, TV sets, VHS/Betamax players and cable/Internet connections. That way, we can maximize resources by giving more students access to more learning content.—**RAMON IKE V. SEÑERES, director general, National Computer Center, Carlos P. Garcia Ave., UP Diliman, Quezon City**

Why a nationally elected Senate is necessary

SO we are going to tinker again with our Constitution? Some portions of it could stand improving, no doubt. One, however, that should be retained is the election of senators "at large" or "nationally" rather than by region. There is wisdom in the original intention of the existing Constitution as the following points should bear out.

One, regionalism is already an ugly problem hereabouts. It has served as a rich ground for divisiveness among our people and stands as an inhibiting factor in the formation of a truly unified nation.

Two, if the problem is to have in the government a strong presence of elected officials from all regions, then this can be solved by electing representatives or congressmen who are able and committed to protect and to promote the welfare of their districts. Congressmen coming from the same region can then form lobby blocs to push for regional development. They can easily see how a region-based development benefits their districts as territorial parts thereof.

And who says senators, just because they are nationally elected neglect regional developments? All things considered, they are more apt to regard bills with less parochial bias. Now, if only voters show less "local favorite son/daughter" partiality.

Three, the Senate now stands on almost the same level of prestige as the presidency because its members have a national constituency. This is important in dealing pragmatically with the needs for check and balance in government. As it is, both legislative houses are often seen as playing second fiddle to the executive branch. Such a situation has led to undue centralization of political power. This, in turn, has already bred a dictatorship as well as permitted such scams as the PEA-Amari deals, plunder, etc.

Indeed, a regionally elected Senate will make for a more influential presidency that is already too powerful for the good of democracy. I thought it was in realization of the latter that we came up with the devolution of power.

Four, in the making of laws, there should be a body that deals with bills from a national perspective. The parochial, or local-interest aspects is the province of the House of Representatives. Issues involving international relations, for example, should be dealt with by the execi tive and a Senate composed of n tionally elected officials.

Fifth, why do we still think th only a person who comes from certain region will protect that r gion? Can we only be regionalist and not be nationalistic?

Surely, there are more pressir matters for us to take up rather tha what appears to me to be only a coi cern of politicos who are bent c expanding the areas in the grip c family dynasties.—**ANGELO DE LOS REYES, 28 Tindalo S Town & Country Executive Vl lage, Mayamot, Antipolo City**

Threats to human lives and human rights

THE YOUTH must agree with the administrators of the University Belt Consortium that in an era of spiraling costs, the students wonder if the training they receive is worth the money they spend for ROTC. But, more than the issue of expenditures in the ROTC, we also raise the issue of commercialization of education and the issue of national security.

We support the call for the abolition of the ROTC, but it must not be overlooked that these same school administrators are the very proponents of the heaviest burden to the students: higher tuition.

The corruption inside the ROTC is no different from the profit-seeking of school administrators in their collection of exorbitant tuition and other fees. Paying for unnecessary uniforms and military paraphernalia is like paying for high tuition, supplementary fees, insurance fees, guidance and counseling fees, and what-have-you fees. These are forms of commercialization of education. *Pinagkakakitaan lang ang mga estudyante sa loob ng mga paaralan!*

Like the resounding call to abolish the ROTC, the Education Act of 1982 should also be scrapped. The government should be more responsible in providing education to the majority of our youth, and not simply leave us in the greedy hands of capitalist educators.

The government still maintains the ROTC as a military institution inside the schools, while it also promotes the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Visiting Forces Agreement.

The core purpose of the ROTC—to develop a strong civilian base to supplement the professional military in the nation's defense system—is merely an excuse for harassment and psychological warfare.

Mark Chua filed complaints against not only corruption in the ROTC but also hazing and physical abuse. He exposed the mercenary tradition of the military in the ROTC. Chua, a strong-willed student, was finally silenced by an institution that is supposed to develop national security.

The government would still argue that the ROTC, AFP and the VFA are institutions that strengthen national security. However, these institutions clearly endanger our very lives and human rights. Ho can we have national security, in tl case of the VFA, when foreign mil tary troops cannot even be held l able under our own laws for the actions and human rights violatioi in our own nation?

The Filipino youth condemn tl death of Mark Wilson Chua and tl mercenary tradition in the ROTC. W also condemn the government's ii creasing dependence on the milita and the VFA.—**APOLINARI ALVAREZ, secretary-genera Anakbayan, 1316 San Perfecto S Sampaloc, Manila**

The WORLD

Peru ex-spy chief Montesinos falls

CARACAS, Venezuela—A Peruvian aircraft believed to be carrying ex-spy chief Vladimiro Montesinos departed yesterday for Peru, where Montesinos faces charges of directing death squads and dealing weapons and drugs.

There was no immediate official confirmation that Montesinos was aboard the Peruvian National Police Antonov airplane. But Peru's Interior Minister, Antonio Ketin Vidal, had said earlier he was taking Montesinos to Peru on an Antonov aircraft.

The plane left Caracas at 1:25 a.m.

Heavy security ringed the military terminal where Montesinos was taken at 8 p.m., less than 24 hours after his arrest in Caracas. Montesinos was in good health and apparently had not undergone plastic surgery to disguise himself, as was widely reported, Ketin Vidal said.

Montesinos' capture, announced Sunday by Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, ended an eight-month chase for the man many Peruvians say effectively ran their country for years with a network of corruption. His scandals led to the downfall in November of Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori.

Montesinos was seized late Saturday at a safehouse in western Caracas, a beaming Chavez announced during a summit of Andean leaders in the central Venezuelan city of Valencia.

"Fortunately, we have captured Vladimiro Montesinos alive," Chavez said, adding that the spymaster was being deported to Peru "faster than a rooster crows."

At home, the 55-year-old Montesinos faces charges ranging from money laundering to corruption to directing death squads. Peru had offered a $5-million reward for information leading to the arrest of Montesinos, alleged to have stashed away tens of millions of dollars in Swiss banks.

Peruvian legal experts have said it is likely Montesinos will eventually face a life sentence in prison.

"We knew as of yesterday at 11 in the morning that there was an operation to capture Montesinos and we are anxiously awaiting news," Peruvian President Valentin Paniagua said from the southern city of Arequipa, where he was surveying damage from an earthquake.

Peruvian Foreign Minister Javier Perez de Cuellar thanked Chavez for the arrest of what he called "a delinquent drug trafficker" who will be tried "like any delinquent in our country." Ketin Vidal praised intelligence agencies from other nations, including the FBI. He said details of the case would be made public later.

As head of Peru's powerful spy agency, Montesinos had been the power broker behind the government during Fujimori's 10-year rule.

Peruvian investigators say Montesinos and his military cronies amassed a fortune from arms dealing and drug trafficking. Investigators have detailed what they say is a huge criminal network run by Montesinos in which he controlled politicians, courts, military officials and businessmen through bribery and blackmail.

Among his achievements, investigators say, was paying off congressmen and judges to ensure Fujimori's 2000 re-election to a third term.

But Montesinos' fall began in September when videos appearing to show him bribing an opposition congressman to support the government were broadcast on television. *AP*

Rescuers sift quake rubble for survivors

MOQUEGUA, Peru—Rescuers sifted through rubble in towns and cities across southern Peru on Sunday, searching for survivors and victims of a powerful earthquake that rocked the Andean region killing 55, injuring hundreds, and leaving thousands homeless.

Interim President Valentin Paniagua rushed to the hard-hit southern town of Arequipa to help organize aid efforts following the deadly earthquake, which struck at 3:33 p.m. Saturday, shaking much of southern Peru, northern Chile and parts of Bolivia.

President-elect Alejandro Toledo briefly postponed a working visit to the United States and Europe, and traveled to the stricken region to survey the damage. Later Sunday he rushed back to Lima to travel abroad.

The quake killed at least 55 people and injured 899, said the head of Peru's Civil Defense, Victor Podesta, late Sunday.

Podesta—speaking from Arequipa and flanked by Paniagua—also said that some 12,500 people were affected by the quake, and an untold number of structures were damaged.

The quake's epicenter was located off the Peruvian coast, east of Arequipa and some 600 km southeast of Lima.

The US Geological Survey's National Earthquake Information Center (NEIC) in Golden, Colorado said the quake had a preliminary magnitude of 7.9 on the Richter scale.

Podesta said the quake killed 28 people in Arequipa, Peru's second-largest city, 17 in Moquegua, and 10 more in Tacna, on the border with Chile.

Moquegua regional governor Juan Pedro Coaila Catacora said the number of victims could be higher still, because rescue crews have been unable to do a head count at San Francisco, a poor district of some 140,000 located outside the city of Moquegua.

An unspecified number of people at San Francisco may be buried under mud-brick dwellings there that collapsed, the governor also noted. *AFP*

Sharon to tell Bush ceasefire will not hold

JERUSALEM—Prime Minister Ariel Sharon headed to the United States for talks on the faltering ceasefire accord with the Palestinians, who accused Israel of assassinating one of their militants in an explosion Sunday.

Sharon was expected to tell President George W. Bush that Israel's patience was running out in holding to a US-brokered ceasefire accord that has failed to put an end to the bloodshed which has claimed more than 600 lives since September.

Usama Fathi Jawabra, a 29-year-old member of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction long wanted by Israel, was killed in the West Bank town of Nablus when a telephone box he was using exploded.

Witnesses said two Palestinian children were also lightly wounded in the blast, which Palestinian officials blamed on Israeli secret services after the Army got the green light to resume "pinpoint attacks" on suspected militants last week.

"Israeli security services who committed this crime were following Sharon's instructions," Palestinian Cabinet secretary Ahmed Abdelrahman said.

"Sharon doesn't want a ceasefire, he wants to continue aggressions against the Palestinians," he said.

An Israeli Army spokesperson declined to comment.

Jawabra is the ninth Palestinian killed, along with six Israelis, since the would-be truce was agreed to June 13 under the mediation of US intelligence chief George Tenet.

Meanwhile Israeli Army radio said 10 Palestinians, including members of Fatah, were arrested in the West Bank while trying to enter Israeli territory illegally.

Sharon has been under increasing pressure from hardliners to pull out of the truce, and an aide to the prime minister told public radio earlier that Israel was now demanding 10 days of calm before moving forward with further agreements. *AFP*

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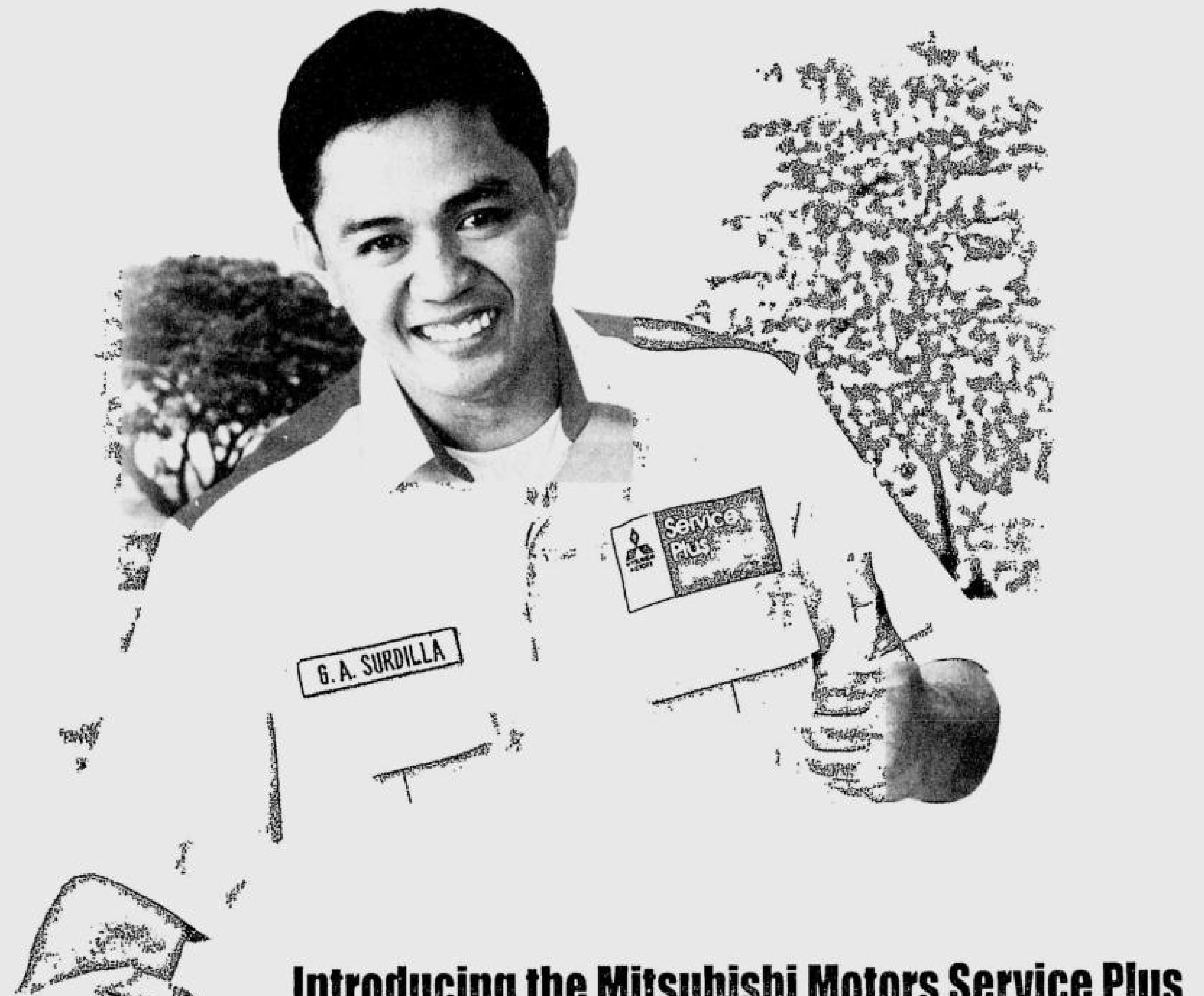

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Pope urges Christian unity at Ukraine Mass

KIEV—Pope John Paul II appealed Sunday for unity between Ukraine's quarrelling Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches at the first open-air Mass of a controversial visit to the former Soviet republic.

The historic event witnessed by tens of thousands of Catholic pilgrims, many of whom had traveled from neighboring Russia and Belarus, as well as from further afield, lasted two hours in pouring rain at Chaika airport, just outside Kiev.

The ailing 81-year-old Pope referred to Christianity's East-West divide as "one of the greatest challenges of the time," adding: "The Church breathes with the two lungs of the Eastern and Western traditions."

But Archbishop Vladimir, head of Ukraine's pro-Russian Orthodox Church, later signaled its anger over the papal visit by boycotting an interfaith meeting at which the Pontiff again called for an end to Christianity's 1,000 year schism.

At the Mass, dressed in his customary white robes and a gold chasuble, the Pope urged Ukrainians to learn from Kiev's historic role as the cradle of Russian Orthodoxy ever since the conversion of Prince Vladimir in 988 AD.

But mixing politics and religion, he also paid tribute to the country's more recent martyrs, including the Catholics, whose faith was outlawed in "the dark days of Communist terror."

The Pope is due to beatify 28 Ukrainian Catholics, mostly victims of Nazism or Communism.

Kiev was "the place of the baptism of Rus," the ancient word for Russia, he said, speaking in Ukrainian, before adding: "Kiev played the role of a precursor of God among many people at the end of the first millennium."

Orthodox militants in religion's equivalent of the Cold War have staged a wave of protests across Ukraine denouncing the Pope as "the precursor of the anti-Christ."

Since the collapse 10 years ago of the Soviet Union, which banned Catholicism, Ukraine's Orthodox majority has accused the Pope's followers of seeking to gain converts as well as seizing parishes and church assets.

But the Pontiff sought to reach out to his Orthodox critics Sunday, appealing to the Eastern church to end the bitter dispute after the example of Kiev's medieval saints 1,000 years ago.

"While living according to two different traditions, the Church of Constantinople and the Church of Rome were still in full communion at that time," the Pope said.

He expressed hope that Sunday's Latin Mass would evoke "the memory of the one Christian baptism we all share and help to restore the situation of communion in which diversity of traditions posed no obstacle to unity in faith and ecclesiastical life."

Police said that almost 100,000 worshippers had gathered for the open-air mass, but the Ukrainian Catholic Church estimated the crowd at only 40,000, blaming inclement weather for a turnout much lower than the predicted 300,000.

Ukraine's Uniate (or Greek) Catholics are so called because, though loyal to the pope, they worship according to the Eastern Rite that was retained in the Greek Orthodox church after the Great Schism of 1054.

On Monday, the pope is due to return to Chaika airport to celebrate mass according to the Eastern rite, before travelling to the western city of Lviv, a bastion of Ukrainian Catholicism, where he will hold two other masses. *AFP*

POPE John Paul II blesses the faithful upon his arrival in the Chaika Airfield on the Kiev outskirts, Ukraine, June 25 on the third day of his five-day visit to Ukraine. AP

EU's Solana brokers truce in Macedonia

SKOPJE—EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana said Sunday he had brokered a ceasefire between the Macedonian Army and ethnic Albanian rebels, who demanded a Nato escort out of the battled-scarred Skopje suburb they have held for two weeks.

The truce came after a three-day onslaught as the Macedonian Army hit Aracinovo with almost everything it had but failed to take the town, amid increasing Western pressure to stop.

The ceasefire opened the way for a resumption of stalled political talks addressing Albanian complaints of being treated as second-class citizens.

President Boris Trajkovski's office said the negotiations, which deadlocked last week, would start again Monday.

"There is a ceasefire here, it is agreed and it is good. Skopje now is not under threat," Solana told reporters outside Aracinovo, on the outskirts of Skopje.

Solana, who spoke after meeting with Trajkovski and his defense and interior ministers, Vlado Buckovski and Ljube Boskovski, did not specify the duration of the ceasefire. Sporadic firing broke out several hours after the truce, but Western officials said it was "tit-for-tat" firing.

A rebel leader in northern Macedonia said talks took place with a Nato delegation—which entered the town immediately after the truce was announced—for the guerrillas to evacuate Aracinovo.

Commander Sokoli said the fighters wanted to pull out to the town of Lipkovo to the north, a rebel stronghold for six weeks.

"We have set as a condition that Nato observers are deployed in Aracinovo and that the Macedonian Army does not enter the town," he said.

But a government official said Skopje wanted the rebels to be escorted to UN-run Kosovo, a Yugoslav province patrolled by Nato and which the Macedonians say is generating Albanian nationalist tensions. *AFP*

Siblings tortured 15 years by mother

AMRITSAR, India—Authorities have rescued a teenage brother and sister who were tortured, starved and confined to their home in northern India for 15 years by their deranged mother, police said Sunday.

Deepak and Tanya Goel were rescued when municipal officials came to their home to investigate complaints by their neighbors that a foul smell was emanating from the home of Dimple Goel in Amritsar, a town 400 km west of New Delhi, the Indian capital.

When the municipal workers entered the house, they discovered 16 dead puppies, urine and feces, and the two siblings cowering in fear.

Deepak, 17, told the workers that their mother, Dimple, regularly beat him, breaking his legs several times, and gave them very little food. He can no longer stand up and walk. His 15-year-old sister was so traumatized by the abuse that she stopped talking several years ago.

The children never went to school or interacted with other kids. They lived only on chapattis, a flat unleavened bread, for 15 years. The 16 puppies were born to the family dog. They died from starvation.

"The mother of both children suffers from schizophrenia, a mental disease," said Dr. Brij Lal Goel, Director of the Vidyasagar Government Mental Hospital, who examined Dimple Goel. The two are not related. *AP*

Milosevic lawyers to contest extradition decree

BELGRADE—Slobodan Milosevic's lawyers were promising to go to a high court Monday to challenge a government decree enabling the former president's extradition to the UN war crimes tribunal.

Toma Fila, head of Milosevic's 10-member defense team, said Sunday that his lawyers would demand that the constitutional court block implementation of the decree until it decides whether the measure was illegal.

The UN war crimes court, based in The Hague, Netherlands, is seeking the ex-president for alleged war crimes committed in Kosovo during the 1998-99 war.

The United States and its allies have hailed the Yugoslav government decision to clear legal obstacles for the extradition of Milosevic and more then one dozen other war crimes suspects sought by The Hague court.

Yugoslavia risks losing billions of dollars in foreign money if its fails to cooperate with The Hague court. Efforts at improving ties with the UN tribunal have intensified ahead of a donors conference scheduled for Friday in Brussels, Belgium.

Some Serbian officials have suggested that the appeals process could delay any extradition for more than two weeks. If extradited, Milosevic would be the first former head of state to face a war crimes trial in front of the UN court, established in 1992.

The decree was passed by the Yugoslav government Saturday, and took effect the following day. It was not immediately clear how soon any legal procedure for Milosevic's extradition will start.

Fila, Milosevic's lawyer, assailed the measure as "legal piracy." He said Milosevic read the decree and also said it was illegal because nearly half of the ministers in the Yugoslav Cabinet were absent when it was agreed on. *AP*

RUSSIAN BALLET IN BEIJING REUTERS

The Russian New Siberia National Ballet troupe performs in Beijing June 24. The troupe is touring major Chinese cities as part of the celebration of the 80th anniversary of the Chinese Communist Party, which falls on July 1.

Coach potatoes seen as likelier to get diabetes

CHICAGO—Men who watch 20 hours of television or more a week are twice as likely to develop late-onset diabetes as their peers who spend an hour or less in front of the goggle box on a weekly basis, according to a study released Sunday.

Researchers from Boston who studied data on more than 37,000 men, reported that the men who spent a significant amount of time watching TV sharply increased their risk for the condition which typically occurs in overweight adults aged 40 and over.

Compared to men who sat in front of the television for an hour or less a week, the men who spent between two and ten hours on the couch were 66 percent more likely to develop diabetes.

The risk was double for the group who notched up between 21 and 40 hours a week in this position, and almost three times as great for the 40-hour plus group.

The findings show that "sedentary lifestyle indicated by prolonged TV watching is directly related to diabetes risk," the authors of the study wrote in the Journal of the American Medical Association's Archives of Internal Medicine.

Previous studies have shown that exercise is key to preventing this form of diabetes, and that people who watch a lot of television are more likely to gain weight and become obese.

But the correlation between sedentary behaviors, such as TV-watching, has not been fully explored, the study said, noting that the average American male spends 29 hours a week watching TV compared to 34 for the average American woman. *AFP*

Californian wins record lottery pot

LOS ANGELES, California—A San Jose, California resident won a record $141-million lottery jackpot, the California Lottery announced Sunday.

"It is the largest single-state jackpot in the nation's history," said Lottery director Joan Wilson on the organization's website.

In the final hours of lottery ticket sales, some 80,000 tickets were being sold every minute across the western state, vastly inflating the final win.

The winner, whose identity has yet to be revealed, will have the choice of either banking a one-time payment of $70 million, or taking the money in 26 annual installments.

The country's previous record lottery win, $118.8 million, was also in California on April 17, 1991. *AFP*

Disillusioned Frenchman becomes monk at Indian temple

KAMAKHYA, India—Fed up with the "illusions" taught back home, a half-naked Frenchman has joined the thousands of monks at a revered Indian temple in the hills of northeastern India.

The 38-year-old, with vermilion marked beads on his forehead, reveals little about his past and calls himself only Brahmanath Yogi.

But for the hundreds of devotees of the temple of the Hindu goddess Kamakhya, he is known as Francisi Baba: the monk from France.

"I am here following a divine call from Mother Goddess Kamakhya . . . I am now being commanded by the Goddess and my life revolves around her," said the monk, puffing marijuana throughout the conversation.

Francisi Baba is one of thousands of monks who have assembled at the temple for the annual Ambubachi Mela, a three-day Hindu ritual that began Saturday.

"He performs all Hindu rituals with perfection and knows about the religion and traditions much more than any other common Hindu," said Bholanath, a fellow monk from the state of West Bengal in eastern India.

Francisi Baba tells little of his religious conversion. But he said he dropped out of high school in France and traveled to Pakistan, finding himself in India a couple of years back.

"I was not at all impressed by lessons taught at schools and so decided to go places in a bid to search for reality, to find answers to certain questions that have haunted and troubled me all throughout my life," he said.

"In the West things are very hollow and superficial and people love to be enamoured by illusions, while in India there is real spiritual feeling where one can seek solace and peace," he said.

Francisi Baba is not completely uncritical of India, however, and called himself "totally opposed to the rigid caste system."

Kamakhya has long been a seat of Tantricism, a sort of black magic that has been an integral part of Assam's folklore for centuries.

Mystics who gather at the temple claim they can perform wonders—make a childless couple conceive, find a distressed loner a spouse or cast an evil spell on others.

Boothi Baba, a 65-year-old monk whose usual residence is a Hindu graveyard in West Bengal, belongs to a secret sect called the Aghoris. The holy man, or sadhu, has a passion for alcohol and marijuana and has a large following, mostly women. *AFP*

Shortwave listeners mourn loss of BBC radio

By Chris Fontaine

LONDON—Long before CNN and the Internet were born, the British Broadcasting Corp.'s World Service radio was a global information force, beaming trusted dispatches past the censors of oppressive regimes, providing in-depth stories to those who craved word of events beyond their own borders.

From Tuscany to Tibet to Texas, huddling around a shortwave radio to listen to the BBC is for millions a tradition that dates back to the days when the sun never set on the British Empire.

But shortwave listeners in the United States, Canada and Australia are about to lose that scholarly voiced BBC welcome—"'This is London"—at the top of every hour. The service is being discontinued on June 30.

BBC officials say the Internet and digital satellite radio, where the World Service will still be available, are making shortwave obsolete in developed markets like the United States. The switch will save $700,000 a year in running costs.

Angry American shortwave enthusiasts say the BBC is jumping ship too early, abandoning its most faithful audience in the process.

Lawrence Magne, editor of a shortwave radio guide, declared the BBC's move "the worst British idea since the Stamp Act"—Britain's 1765 taxation of American colonies that stirred a revolution.

"The BBC is about to lose the majority of its audience in the most influential nation on earth," Magne said by telephone from his suburban Philadelphia home.

Listeners have sent a torrent of complaints to the BBC's headquarters in London, pleading for a change of heart. The Internet is still too expensive, they argue, and a computer linked up to a modem can't be carried into the kitchen when you want the news while cooking dinner.

"Thousands of listeners will not be able to hear (the BBC) anymore—rural residents, Internet-free homes, etc.," said Ed Mayberry, a 49-year-old shortwave enthusiast from Houston.

Satellite radio, a cutting-edge medium being launched by two US companies this year, also has a long way to go. Both services—Sirius and XM—are geared toward commuters, receivers are expensive and not widely available and some shortwave lovers balk at the monthly subscription fees of about $10.

The BBC, however, says its research shows that World Service listeners are steadily moving away from shortwave.

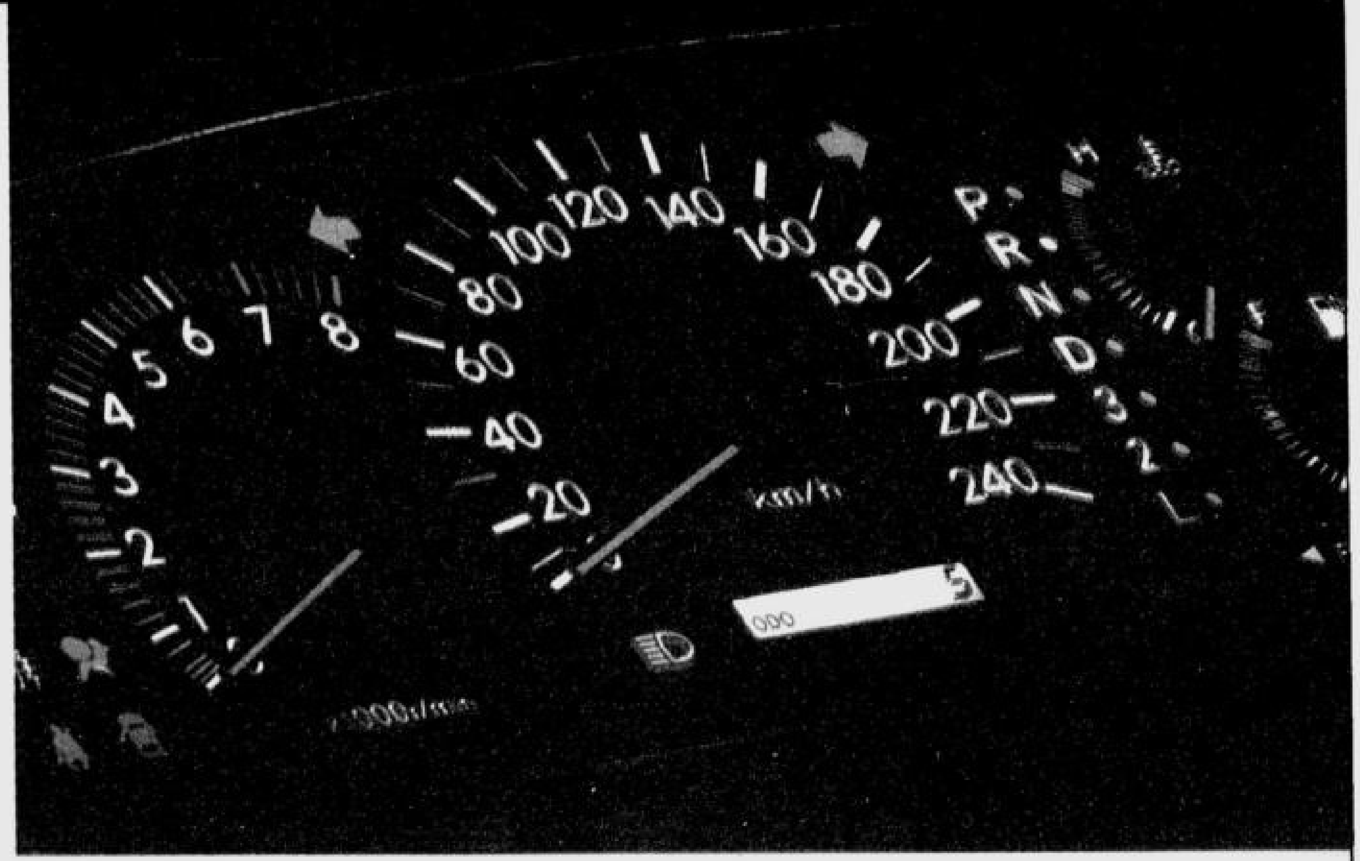
There are 1.25 million shortwave listeners in the United States and Canada, compared with 1.5 million Internet listeners and 2.5 million who listen to FM rebroadcasts that will still be widely available—if delayed.

As the BBC expands into new media and updates its shortwave transmitters in developing countries, the cancellation of shortwave in some regions was a tough but necessary business decision, says Jerry Timmins, head of the World Service's Americas region.

The Voice of America, the US government's worldwide radio service, has also recently cut back on some shortwave services. In August, it will halt broadcasts in Portuguese to Brazil as well as eliminate its Thai- and Uzbek-language services.

In October, the Voice of America reduced broadcast hours in Eastern and Central Europe in six languages, at the same time creating a European multimedia unit to attract more Internet listeners.

Robin L. Harrowed is one BBC listener who feels left out. Fast and cheap Internet access is unavailable to the resident of Launceston, Tasmania—a town of 70,000 people 240 km south of mainland Australia—and FM rebroadcasts from the nearest city, Hobart, are too weak to hear consistently. *AP*



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TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

ROUNDUP

Taxi drivers warned

CAMP GEN. ALEJOS SANTOS, Bulacan—Police officials in Bulacan warned drivers of Tamaraw FX taxicabs and passenger vans plying routes in the province not to pick up passengers along the North Luzon Expressway to avoid holdup men. Senior Supt. Edgardo Acuña, Bulacan police director, issued the warning amid the rising number of cases of highway robberies victimizing passengers of FX taxis and vans. Acuña said the robbers usually board taxicabs and vans at the toll gates of the expressway. ***Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

AFP allays fears

LEGAZPI CITY—Col. Dante Bonifacio, 202nd Infantry battalion commander, allayed fears that government rescue officials would not know what to do during the eruption of Mayon Volcano because most of them are busy fighting rebels. "I have assigned men (to) the Task Force Mayon, aside from those pursuing the rebels," he said. Bonifacio said his troops are pursuing 413 rebels and 126 armed groups in their area of responsibility. ***Rey Nasol, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Reward system

LUCENA CITY—Mayor Ramon Talaga Jr. announced that a cash reward awaits those who could successfully lead government authorities to the arrest of criminals. He explained that anybody can dial the city government's hotlines to feed the initial information and the police will do the rest of the investigation. Fr. Joey Faller, a priest here, has claimed that the city is now next to Metro Manila in illegal drug trafficking but Supt. Federico Terte, Lucena City police chief, denied the allegation. ***Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Shabu theft

THE CASE of the 47-kilo shabu theft from a court in Mamburao, Occidental Mindoro seemed to be nearing solution. Senior Insp. Pucas Paguio, Mamburao police chief, said the group of Senior Insp. Gaudencio Pukyutan had found footprints from the regional trial court building near the provincial capitol leading to the residence of a Rolando Aguila, an alleged drug user. Aguila's residence is about 150-200 meters from the court building. Aguila, however, denied a role in the theft of the shabu that is stored in the court's vaults. ***Floreño Solmirano, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over Eastern Visayas.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila HI 32° Lo 24°	Baguio HI 21° Lo 15°	Tuguegarao HI 32° Lo 22°
Laoag HI 31° Lo 24°	Clark Zone HI 31° Lo 23°	Tagaytay HI 30° Lo 22°
Legazpi HI 33° Lo 24°	Bacolod HI 32° Lo 26°	Roxas HI 33° Lo 25°
Cebu HI 30° Lo 24°	Tacloban HI 31° Lo 25°	Gen. Santos HI 32° Lo 23°
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Compiled by: Ray Leyosa, PDI Research/06/26/01

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Cop, ex-cop slain in gunfight

BACOLOD CITY—The head of the Bacolod police Task Force Sikop and a retired policeman were killed in a gunfight Sunday night in Purok Sibucao, Barangay Banago, this city.

SPO1 Rene Diamante Bejemino, 38, died from a bullet wound in the heart. He was declared dead on arrival at the Riverside Medical Center.

Quirico Evangelista Abad, 64 and a retired policeman, died from multiple gunshot wounds.

Supt. Amado Marquez, Bacolod police director, said the Bacolod police received a complaint about 7:30 p.m. from a certain Dodong that Abad, who was reportedly drunk, got mad and poked his .45 caliber pistol at him just outside a cockpit joint.

Bejemino and four other policemen went immediately to the area where Abad was.

Marquez said Bejemino pointed his gun at Abad and ordered one of his men to search the former policeman. But before Abad could be searched, he said, Abad pulled his gun out and shot Bejemino.

Bejemino fired back at Abad with an Uzi machinegun, Marquez said. Abad was able to fire at SPO1 Eduardo Federizo but missed.

Federizo then returned fire and hit Abad in the head, said Marquez.

Marquez said he had already ordered an investigation of the shooting. The four policemen, who were with Bejemino, would undergo paraffin tests as part of the investigation, he added.

But Abad's family asked the National Bureau of Investigation to conduct the investigation to make sure there would be no whitewash.

Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

INCONVENIENCE DENNIS SABANGAN

Checkpoints and searches have become part of the daily lives of Basilan residents, a price they have to pay for a war against Abu Sayyaf bandits that is costing the country much more than its precious budget.

ANOTHER CHINESE TARGET

Townsfolk foil kidnapping

COTABATO CITY—Civilians foiled what could have been another kidnapping of a Chinese national working for a Japanese-funded project in North Cotabato.

Using persuasion, the civilians convinced the suspected kidnappers to spare Moming Yang, an employee of the China Import-Export Technology Inc. (Citech Inc.), from being kidnapped.

Citech Inc. is one of the sub-contractors of a P3.7 billion Japanese-funded Malitubog-Maridagao irrigation dam project in Carmen, North Cotabato.

The suspects, who wore black hoods, yielded to the villagers' appeal but before leaving, they took Moming's personal valuables and his P200 cash.

Maj. Julieto Ando, 6th Infantry Division, said the Army's 602nd Brigade based in Carmen, North Cotabato, reported that Moming was only robbed of his valuables.

"He was on his way to the Citech office when two men held up the passenger jeep," Ando told radio station dxMS.

He said the Army is verifying the report that Moming was supposed to be kidnapped.

After robbing Moming, the suspects fled, allowing the Chinese national to reach his office in Poblacion Carmen.

Moming was the second national working for the Malmar project to be harassed in the province in five days.

On Wednesday, Zhang Zhong Qiang (not Lang Sung Kiang as earlier reported), a supply officer of Citech, was kidnapped by four gunmen in Matalam, North Cotabato.

Until now, the firm has yet to hear from Zhang and his kidnappers.

"No ransom has been raised so far. We are still searching (for) the victim," Ando said.

Ando said Zhang was on his way to Carmen town from Davao City on board a passenger L-300 van when gunmen flagged down the vehicle.

Ando said the victim could have been brought to the kidnappers' hiding place in Maguindanao's Liguasan Marsh.

Government troopers, stationed near the Liguasan Marsh in North Cotabato and Maguindanao, have been alerted to run after a dozen armed men who seized Zhang.

North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol lamented that his office learned of the June 20 kidnapping only three days after the kidnapping.

He blamed the National Irrigation Administration and Citech officials for not reporting the incident to authorities.

Piñol tagged a certain "Magtanggol" as the mastermind of Zhang's kidnapping.

He said Magtanggol, whose group he did not identify, was responsible for the kidnapping of businessman Ambo Torqueza of North Cotabato three years ago.

Government authorities had blamed Abu Sayyaf bandits for a spate of kidnappings in Mindanao.

But some of the kidnappings were allegedly committed by renegade members of either the Moro National Liberation Front or its splinter group, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

While the MNLF has already entered into a peace agreement with the government in September 1996, the MILF continues to demand an independent Islamic state.

The MILF is now back to the negotiating table with government representatives in Tripoli, Libya. ***Edwin Fernandez and Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Town execs suspended near end of terms

BY VICENTE LABRO
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—With only about a week left in their terms, eight municipal officials of Hilongos, Leyte were ordered suspended by Local Governments Secretary Jose Lina Jr. for abuse of authority.

Hilongos Mayor Altagracia Villaflor, Vice Mayor Panfilo Go and Councilors Manuel Gabisan, Lamberto Rainer Franco, Epifania Nerves, Lilia Sabando, Association of Barangay Council president Rogelio Yan and Sangguniang Kabataan president Edwin Faller were all suspended until the end of their terms on June 30.

The eight officials were suspended "for abuse of authority, misconduct in office, dereliction of duty and conduct unbecoming to a public official."

The suspension order dated June 13 affirmed an earlier ruling by the Leyte provincial board to suspend the municipal officials for their refusal to accept as council member an appointee of Gov. Remedios Petilla.

The appointee, Trinidad Cabardo, was to replace Councilor Teogenes Caing who resigned to take the post of municipal health officer.

The suspension, which was approved by the Commission on Elections, was to start upon the receipt of the order by the town officials.

Lina's suspension order was received at the DILG regional office here on June 19 and brought to the town hall the following day.

Lina also issued a separate memorandum directing Councilors Aurelio Mendoza and Armando Fulache to assume the offices of the mayor and vice mayor, respectively.

But Villaflor and Go, despite their suspension and the end of their terms, said they were going back to the town hall of Hilongos because they won in the May 14 elections. Villaflor, a three-term mayor of Hilongos, is the incoming vice mayor while Go, also on his third term as vice mayor, is now the town mayor.

Gabisan did not run for reelection but his father, Francisco, did and topped the race for the town's eight municipal council seats. Nerves, Sabando and Franco were also reelected councilors. Yan, being ABC president, and Faller, as SK president, could still sit in the council after June 30.

The new set of ABC officials will have to be elected next year by village leaders who will emerge as winners in next year's barangay elections.

Cops go gaga on 'jueteng' revelations

DAGUPAN CITY—The top police official here said the recent revelation of a jueteng financier on his involvement in illegal gambling opened a Pandora's box in the operations of jueteng financiers in the city.

Supt. Francisco Manalo Jr., city police director, said the statements of Alfredo Gomez that he managed jueteng operations in the city for the last 10 years was a "revelation that opened a Pandora's box."

"This is an interesting revelation because finally, a violator who had long been sought by authorities has finally come out in the open admitting his criminal acts," Manalo said.

Gomez last week admitted his involvement in jueteng over a local radio station after armed men fired at his house on Thursday last week.

Gomez has not been arrested by the police or charged with any crime after his revelation.

Manalo said despite Gomez's statements over radio, which he noted were not under oath, police have no evidence against him. ***Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Herrera says next mission is wise electorate

BY ROCKY NAZARENO

AFTER 15 years in Congress—12 in the Senate and three in the House of Representatives—defeated senatorial candidate Ernesto Herrera is embarking on a mission to "enlighten the Filipino electorate" to make the right decisions in the 2004 elections.

"One step backward, many steps forward," Herrera said in describing the three-year hiatus he will take in politics.

The Bohol politician spoke before his staff in a farewell dinner Friday before going back to private life after two terms as a senator and a term as a congressman.

Herrera, a labor leader, said he is going to take a few weeks off before immersing himself anew in "consensus-building and molding public opinion."

He has plans to write a column for a daily newspaper and launch a TV opinion show with another former senator, Orlando Mercado.

"We see it as a Senate outside the Senate," Herrera said.

He added that he hoped to convince the Filipino electorate to make "enlightened decisions" through mass media.

Herrera said the success reaped by the Left-wing Bayan Muna, which topped the party-list elections, showed that the communist party was well on its way of becoming a legitimate political party to reckon with.

"It is ideologically based with die-hard campaigners who are very effective in the field," he said.

Herrera said his loss was a sign, a call to mission that "it is a matter of duty" for him to help "in developing a new generation of labor leaders and (political) candidates who would stand for good governance."

"That is what will keep me busy while I am on this sabbatical leave," he said.

NIA cuts off water supply of 2,000 ha of farms

BY JANI ARNAIZ
PDI Visayas Bureau

ORMOC CITY—The National Irrigation Administration has cut off the water supply to about 2,000 hectares of ricelands in 20 villages here, endangering the rice supply in this city.

The NIA has cut off the water supply since May after it failed to collect P13 million in arrears from farmers who are using the Bao River irrigation system.

The amount was accumulated through the years since the NIA started its operation in 1982.

Antonio Viscarra, NIA-Bao River irrigation systems superintendent, said they were also forced to cut off the water supply "because our salaries were already affected by their non-payment and to force the delinquent farmers to pay their arrears."

Viscarra said the NIA gets funds for salaries from the payments they collected from farmers every crop season, which were equivalent to three cavans (50-kilo) of palay per hectare during the dry season and two cavans during the wet season.

All NIA offices in the region get their salaries from what they collect from farmers, he said.

"I pity the good payers, usually the small farmers who are most affected by the closure," Viscarra told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

The big landowners, who represent 25 percent of about 1,000 landowners using the Bao irrigation system, are usually the delinquent ones. They each owe the NIA from P200,000 to P300,000, said Viscarra.

Prudencio Conopio, one of the affected farmers, said the action of the NIA was not only unfair but also endangered the rice supply of Ormoc and its neighboring towns.

"(The NIA) policy is wrong. How would the farmers pay if they continue cutting off the water supply," said Conopio, who owned 36 hectares of riceland.

Conopio admitted he also owed the NIA but he said he had been paying in the past at P10 per kilo of palay that he owed the NIA.

He said he did not know if the other farmers also pay the NIA in cash.

Conopio said he would file a complaint before the Department of Agriculture in Manila if the NIA here continued to deprive the farmers of water.

"I'm sure this is not the policy of the (DA) central office," he said.

Conopio said he learned that in Nueva Ecija, the farmers owed NIA much more than what the Ormoc farmers owed but their water supply was not cut off.

According to the NIA, Conopio owned the agency P136,000 and could pay only P74,000 if he would avail of the amnesty. Conopio said he only owed the agency no more than P11,000.

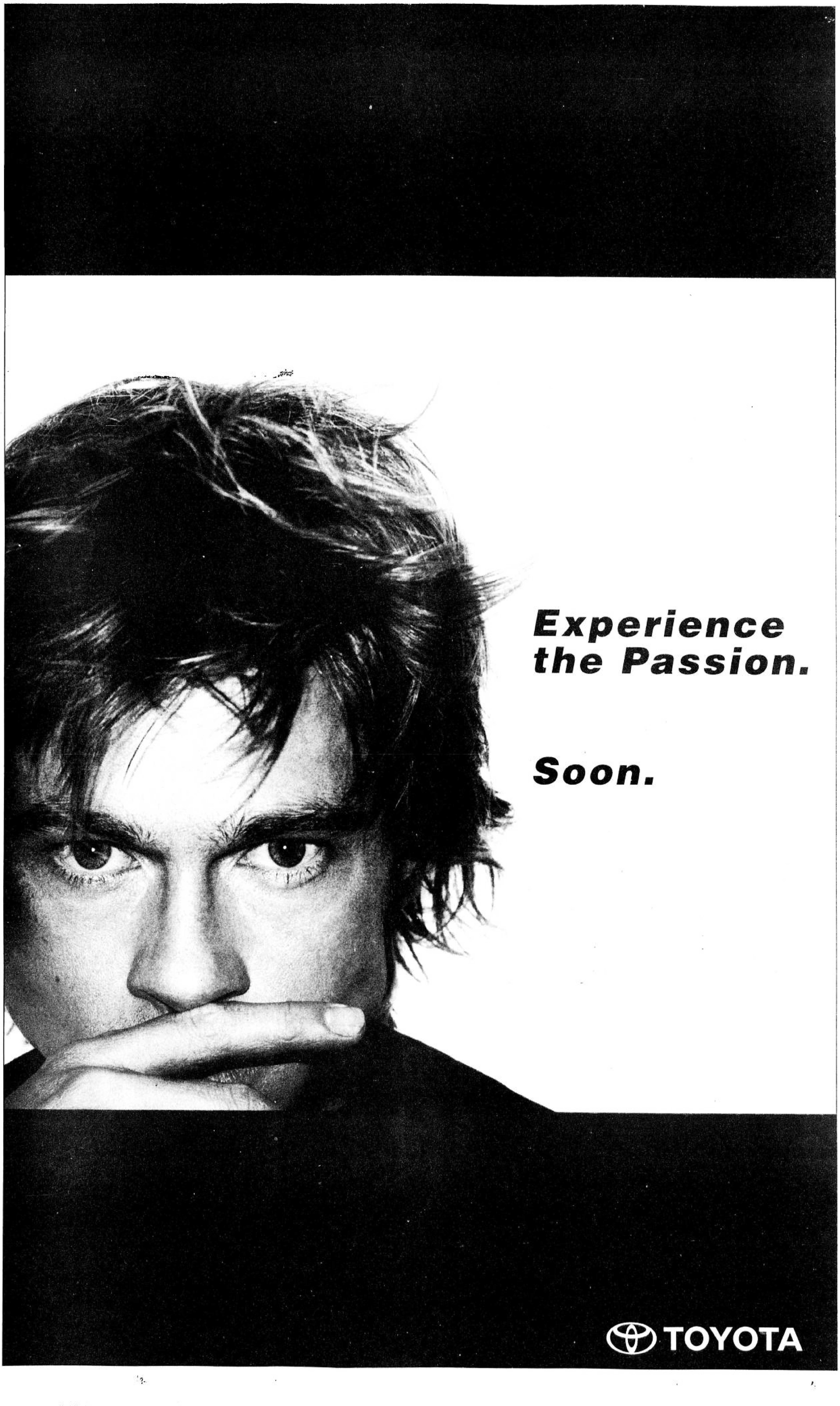
As the new crop season starts (from June to September), the row between the NIA and rice farmers is far from over even as a compromise agreement was reached last week, Viscarra said.

He said the agreement drafted by the DA requires the farmers to make a promissory note to pay NIA their arrears plus 50 percent of their current harvest. Only then would the NIA restore the water supply.

But Viscarra said only a little over 90, or about 10 percent, of the estimated 1,000 landowners affected by the closure signed the agreement.

While the row threatens the rice supply of Ormoc, the city agriculture office's rice specialist Dante Alvarico said they could not do anything on the NIA's closure of the irrigation system as the agency is a separate entity.

"Our support to these farmers (is) only limited to . . . loans for smaller water systems like (the) construction of shallow tube wells," Alvarico said.


Experience
the Passion.
Soon.
TOYOTA

AFP chief: Threat real

(From page A1)

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, however, found it odd the Macapagal administration was making public something that the military and police would usually keep secret.

"It's not a case of being paranoid but a case of being transparent," presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said in reaction to such criticisms.

During the same press briefing in Malacañang, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez was asked to identify the personalities behind the plot.

"The names being mentioned were in the middle level. We have heard their names before but we won't divulge them," Golez said.

In another briefing, Villanueva said the AFP was "monitoring certain personalities and certain organizations" suspected of recruiting military officers for a power grab.

He said Task Force Libra had been put on alert, together with troops from the Northern and Southern Luzon Commands, as a precaution.

"We assume that some people will go on destabilizing the present administration," Villanueva said.

He assured the public that the entire AFP was solidly united behind President Macapagal despite attempts by some forces to divide the military.

Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, AFP deputy chief of staff, said the military planned to deploy in the metropolis a total of 3,500 soldiers backed by light tanks, armored fighting vehicles and attack helicopters.

Cimatu said military planners met on Saturday evening to map out contingency measures.

Formal pleading

In a formal pleading filed with the Sandiganbayan, Senior Supt. Doroteo Reyes said Estrada should be tried in the 500-seat gymnasium of the VMMC where he has been confined for more than six weeks for various ailments.

Reyes, head of the PNP legal services division, warned that police intelligence reports indicated the defendant's safety could be endangered during travel "through ambuscades and assassinations." He gave no details.

Golez earlier said that while the courtroom was only a short distance from the hospital, there were several "choke points" along the way which anti-government elements could use to disrupt the daily effort of transporting Estrada.

The Sandiganbayan courthouse is about 7 kilometers away from the VMMC complex in Quezon City.

Estrada won a court ruling last week allowing him to stay in the hospital until further court orders. He had asked the court to prevent the police from moving him to Fort Sto. Domingo in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

In his pleading, Reyes also cited an alleged plan by Estrada's supporters to disrupt the trial "through massive demonstrations and violent actions within the (Sandiganbayan) premises."

VAL HANDUMON

REHEARSAL for mob control at Camp Crame to counter alleged destabilization moves of Estrada loyalists.

They might also try "to destabilize the government through protest actions" in Metro Manila and some provincial centers with the "intent of grabbing power" from the present administration, he said.

Reyes said the PNP was capable of handling the threat, but it could be "unnecessarily sacrificing" personnel and resources.

Moving the venue for both the arraignment and the trial proper "will not affect the merits of the case," while it "will substantially reduce the risks," he added.

"We must not wait for a situation in which some or all contingencies are already occurring," Reyes told the Sandiganbayan.

Estrada's arrest in April sparked huge street protests. On May 1, about 50,000 supporters marched on Malacañang.

Ms Macapagal called the march an opposition plot to topple her administration and install a civilian-military junta.

She called out the Army to quell the rioting that followed. Four people were killed and more than 100 arrested.

Biazon

Senator Biazon, however, said talk about a destabilization plot was only fueling speculations that the administration might be trying to divert public attention from the military's setbacks in Basilan.

"According to my experience in the AFP, issues like this are normally kept secret and not announced for everyone to hear," said Biazon, former AFP chief of staff and current chair of the Senate committee on national security.

"There is a possibility that this is a diversion being created to divert public attention from something else, probably some failure of the government regarding the economy or the war against the Abu Sayyaf," he added.

He said the opposition did not have the resources or the support to pull off another "Edsa Tres," adding the military or police would not likely support any power grab.

Instead of making all these warnings, the Macapagal administration should instead convene the National Security Council to take stock of all the threat against the government, Biazon suggested. ***With reports by Armand Nocum and AFP***

Gov't troops clash with Abus; 5 hurt

(From page A1)

aries of Isabela, Sumisip, Maluso and Tipo-Tipo.

In Zamboanga City, AFP Southern Command spokesperson Col. Danilo Servando said members of the 55th Infantry Battalion on pursuit operations met with sniper fire as they approached the bridge at Fuente Egas.

"The troops returned fire and managed to send the bandits fleeing along the creek line," Servando said at a press conference.

He named the wounded soldier as Pfc. Nagdar Sakili, and the wounded bandits as Abu Tail, a certain Seddik, a certain Jack, and a certain Yusop—all of Tuburan town in Basilan.

"We believe that they are members of the group that was previously cornered by the troops in that area in Basilan where (the bandits and their hostages) are holed up," Servando said.

Adan said the four wounded bandits were able to escape. He did not elaborate.

He said the hostages—six from Dos Palmas, four from a hospital in Lamitan, Basilan, and 13 from a plantation in Lantawan, also in Basilan—were not sighted during the clash.

"It is possible that the hostages are at some distance from the perimeter defense," Adan said.

"This perimeter defense is basically (quick) to alert the main body on the approach of our troops, so (it is) the first to be encountered by the (soldiers)," he said.

Adan cited intelligence reports saying that the hostages had been separated into two groups—one led by Sabaya and the other by a Commander Musap.

Sunday's firefight is the first since June 16, when the troops clashed with a group of bandits in Marang-marang, Isabela.

No casualties were reported in that incident.

Soldier

For the first time, the military officially admitted that one of the three severed heads found Thursday in Tuburan belonged to a previously missing soldier of the 55th IB.

Adan withheld the soldier's identity, saying his family had to be informed first.

The Abu Sayyaf earlier claimed to have beheaded three soldiers captured in battle. But the military had strongly denied this.

Adan said authorities had yet to establish the identities of the two other victims.

In Malacañang, President Macapagal-Arroyo's spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said the government was "very concerned" that two more Filipino hostages had been slain, bringing the confirmed death toll to four.

The beheaded bodies of the two, Primitivo Falcasantos and Crisanto Suela, both from the Golden Harvest Plantation in Lantawan, were found Saturday in Isabela.

"We're calling on Abu Sabaya to stop this carnage and talk to our negotiator (William Castillo)," Tiglao told reporters. "All these beheadings don't really do any cause he has any good."

In Isabela, Maj. Alberto Gepilano, chief of the Joint Task Force Comet, said the discovery of the two bodies did not mean that the bandits were already in the city.

"It's easy to dump bodies in an area. This is just a diversion," Gepilano told the INQUIRER yesterday.

On Saturday, former Basilan Rep. Candu Muarip warned that the bandits might have arrived in Isabela.

"(The discovery of the bodies) indicates that they have the capability to disturb this town any time they want," he said.

By Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar's initial assessment, Falcasantos and Suela might have been killed in Barangay Kumalarang, which is adjacent to the village of Cabunbata, where the bodies were found.

'Special Cafgus'

The Joint Task Force Comet has authorized civic, business and other groups in Isabela to organize militia troops called "special Cafgus."

The difference between the regular and special militia forces is that the former is supported by the national government, and the latter, "whoever organizes them." Gepilano said.

But he said the "special Cafgus" would be trained by the military.

"We will also issue firearms and see to it that they understand the functions" of the militia, he said.

Mother and baby

Reports reaching the Basilan Provincial Police Office said more than 20 gunmen walked inside the house of Minda Panangka, 24, in Barangay Pamatsaken in Sumisip town and snatched her and her 5-month-old son.

The abduction reportedly occurred on Sunday, in broad daylight.

But this time, said Supt. Akmadul Pangambayan, provincial police chief, the gunmen were not demanding money. Pangambayan said the gunmen wanted a hostage swap—the Panangkas for their three comrades and relatives arrested by police on June 20.

He identified six of the gunmen as Abdullah Quezon, Ikik Mingkong, Nuram Mastul, Mami Jannatul, Ampi Jannatul and Roen Baliong.

Pangambayan, however, expressed doubt that the gunmen were members of the Abu Sayyaf.

He said he believed that the abduction involved a "personal grudge."

It was not known where the mother and child were taken.

Burnham

Abu Sabaya yesterday demanded that the Philippine government bring in three negotiators who were involved in mediating last year's Sipadan hostage crisis, and again threatened to kill more hostages if this demand was ignored.

Speaking by satellite telephone to the Associated Press, he specifically mentioned the American missionary Martin Burnham.

"If we chop off the heads of people like Mr. Burnham, the Americans would intervene, and so would the Arabs and (suspected terrorist Osama) bin Laden's groups. What will happen then to the Philippines?" Sabaya said. "This problem will never end. Actually, many more of these (attacks) could happen."

Referring to the hostages, Sabaya said: "They're okay. We have divided them into different groups."

He said he would only issue a list of demands once former Malaysian senator Sairin Karno, Malaysian merchant Yusof Hamdan and Filipino official Farouk Hussein were brought in to mediate.

But the Malaysians told AP that they did not want to get involved further.

"We refuse," Yusof said. "We've been trying to help in a nice way, but some people misinterpret what we've been trying to do. Some say we're favoring only the release of Muslim hostages. We want everybody released, and we're not doing this for money."

The AP's efforts to contact Malacañang for reaction were not immediately successful. The US Embassy in Manila issued a statement saying the choice of negotiators was a decision for the Philippine government.

"The United States government continues to hold the Abu Sayyaf group responsible for harm that may come to the American hostages," the statement said. "We call for the safe, immediate and unconditional release of the innocent persons being held."

Australian warning

In Canberra, the Australian government warned its citizens traveling to the Philippines that politically motivated kidnappers could strike any tourist resort in the country.

"Kidnappings have occurred in major cities, including Manila, and tourist destinations where foreigners have been specifically targeted for kidnap-by-ransom gangs," the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs said in a statement.

"Kidnap gangs now have the ability to strike at virtually any beachfront tourist resort in the Philippines," it added.

Australians were also advised to avoid travel to areas in Mindanao where military operations were continuing and the situation was "unpredictable."

"All Australian travelers and residents in Mindanao . . . should avoid large crowds and public gatherings, keep a low profile and vary routes and time of travel," the advisory said. ***With Inquirer wires***

Sobero mom, sis appeal to Sabaya: Please tell us Guillermo is alive

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The family of American hostage Guillermo Sobero, whom the Abu Sayyaf claimed to have executed, is hoping against hope that he is still alive in the hills and jungles of Basilan.

In a long-distance call to Radio Mindanao Network from California, Sobero's sister Anna urged Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya to allow her brother to speak over the radio station, saying "his mother and father, brothers and sisters and children need to hear that he is alive."

Anna went on to read a letter from her mother addressed to Sabaya, who regularly communicates with the station by satellite phone. "Abu Sabaya, our family has faith and hope that you have not actually carried out or claimed to have killed our dear Guillermo," the mother said. "We love Guillermo very much. We ask that you please relent and tell us that you have Guillermo alive and well. Please let Guillermo speak over (RMN)."

Sabaya announced over the station on June 12 that the Abu Sayyaf had beheaded Sobero, a father of four, as an "Independence Day gift" for President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The military had described the announced execution as a bluff, but it later said it was presuming Sobero dead.

But the body of Sobero, one of 20 Americans and Filipinos abducted from the Dos Palmas resort in Palawan on May 27, has yet to be found. The bodies of two Filipinos from that group—one beheaded—were found early this month.

"We understand that your people have suffered much. We do not understand the politics of your situation," the mother said in her letter.

She added: "We want to call on your higher spirit and your belief in Allah. Please show mercy. Please ease our suffering and let us know Guillermo is alive. Let him speak over (RMN)."

In a portion of the letter addressed to her son, the mother said: "Guillermo, we hope that you can hear us. Know that we pray for you without ceasing and that we love you very much."

Anna Sobero thanked "the people of the Philippines for their concern for the hostages and their families," and the radio station.

She made her own emotional plea over the station last Thursday for "information if Guillermo is alive or dead." ***Alexander M. Young and Julie Alipala-Inot, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Erap arraignment reset anew . . .

(From page A1)

The Sandiganbayan's third division will start holding this afternoon a bail hearing requested by Serapio two months ago.

Although Ombudsman Aniano Desierto wanted the Estradas present at the bail hearing as Serapio's co-accused, Badoy said their appearance would not be necessary.

Badoy said the bail hearing would be limited to "stipulations and admissions." This means prosecutors will present a list of witnesses and items of evidence, and defense lawyers will stipulate whether these are acceptable to them.

Desierto said the prosecution intends to present the names of 45 witnesses.

Estrada is accused of plundering the economy and pocketing payoffs and kickbacks during 31 months in office. If his arraignment is held, it will be the first chance for a public glimpse of the once immensely popular movie actor who captured the presidency in 1998 on a pro-poor and anti-corruption platform.

The militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan blasted the Sandiganbayan for postponing the arraignment.

"What is this? Are they making fun of the people?" Bayan secretary general Teodoro Casiño asked in a statement.

"This is a contemptible travesty of the people's demand for Estrada's prosecution and punishment," he said.

Jinggoy's to-do list

At the Sandiganbayan yesterday, lawyers of outgoing San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada presented his "to do" list as they pleaded for an extension of his detention leave to "wind up his affairs."

Included in his list were meetings with the municipal disaster council (since the rainy season has started, the report said), the peace and order council, contractors and local department heads.

He purportedly needs to meet the contractors to discuss drainage system repair, roadwork, electric wiring and the installation of lights on a basketball court.

Jinggoy also needs to discuss the repair of a conference room, the construction of a storage room for the prosecutor's office, the roofing of a puericulture center, and the construction of a multi-purpose center, a gymnasium and a three-story barangay hall.

The report, prepared by San Juan municipal lawyer Romualdo delos Santos, was submitted to the third division in connection with the younger Estrada's plea for ten more days of detention leave.

But the Office of the Ombudsman objected to the motion, pointing out that Estrada's vice mayor, Philip Cezar, had already "stepped into the shoe(s)" of the outgoing mayor to run town affairs in his absence.

Desierto maintained that granting Estrada's request would be tantamount to putting Jinggoy under what the Ombudsman called "mini house arrest."

Government lawyers also belittled as a "flimsy" excuse Estrada's claim that he was needed to attend to the municipality's financial concerns.

But this did not deter Jinggoy's lawyer Cleofe Verzola from asking the court to allow her client to attend a "despedida" party on June 29 and the formal turnover of the San Juan mayoralty to JV Ejercito on July 2.

Showdown

At a pre-bail hearing conference in the afternoon, Desierto and Serapio's lawyer Sabino Acut Jr. faced each other in a legal showdown.

Acut argued that the court has still not acted on Serapio's motion for bail, which was filed April 17.

He also noted that the prosecution had not opposed the motion, hinting that a bail hearing might not even be necessary because of this omission.

Desierto countered that the prosecution did not recommend bail for Serapio since he was charged with plunder, a non-bailable crime punishable by death.

Outside the Sandiganbayan, civil society and leftist groups accused the Ombudsman and the Philippine National Police of conniving with the Estrada camp to keep the discredited leader out of jail and in the Veterans Memorial Medical Center.

They were reacting to a petition from the PNP to hold the trial at the auditorium of the military hospital for security reasons.

The All Reform Movement of Lawyers (Arm the Lawyers!) yesterday volunteered a "proposal" that it said would break the "deadlock"—detain the Estradas in a Sandiganbayan detention cell.

"For practical considerations, the detention of ex-President Estrada at the Sandiganbayan complex would mitigate if not solve the serious security and logistics nightmare of transporting Estrada from (the hospital to the court)," the group said. The Equal Justice for all Movement (E-Just) lambasted the Ombudsman for supporting the PNP's motion to hold the trial in the hospital compound.

"A hospital is not a place to hold criminal trials . . . Special treatment, anyone?" E-Just lamented in a separate statement. The Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas also criticized both the Macapagal administration and the Sandiganbayan for granting special privileges to the Estradas. ***With a report from Andrea Trinidad-Echavez; AFP***

DOJ clears Estrada in Dacer case

(From page A1)

Perez also said that his office was still studying the option of adopting Dumlao, one of 22 people charged with the double murder of Dacer and Corbito, as a state witness.

"That will have to be assessed later. In case he turns state witness, then the DOJ will have to ask the court to strike out Dumlao's name in the charge sheet so that he can testify against the real culprits," the justice chief said.

Earlier this month, Dumlao executed the handwritten affidavit alleging that Aquino and Mancao were part of a plot to put Dacer under surveillance in 1999 and later, to bomb his office and to kill him.

He alleged that he overheard Aquino telling Mancao in Taglish that the operation "had the OK from Malacañang."

Dumlao testified that he himself interrogated Dacer after he was abducted on Nov. 24, 2000, on Aquino's alleged orders. He also claimed that Mancao later instructed him to dispose of documents taken from Dacer.

Dumlao also said Mancao told him that the details of the operation had been reported to "71," the call sign of Lacson.

Perez said that Lacson could not be held accountable for the murders on the basis of command responsibility.

"If based on command responsibility alone, no. But if for example, Dumlao said the particular officer personally ordered him to do it, yes," Perez said.

Government prosecutors have already filed double murder charges against Dumlao and 21 other suspects.

Among the accused are Chief Insp. Boy Arnado, Insp. Bobby Lancauan, SPO4 Benjamin Taladua, a certain SPO3 Villanueva and PO3 Lacasandile, SPO1s Mario Sarmiento and William Reed, PO2 Thomas Japitan Sarmiento and SPO1 Ruperto Aguilar Nemeno.

Also charged are SPO4 Marino Soberano, SPO3 Mauro Escalante, SPO3 Mauro Torres, Crisostomo Puruganan, Digo de Pedro, Renato and Jovencio Malabanan, Rommel Rollan, Margarito Cueno, brothers William and Jimmy Lopez, and Alex Diloy.

This time, Johnny tops Noli

(From page A1)

Senate legislative bills and index service—all in aid of going down in history as the first to file bills for the 12th Congress.

The office will not accept the bills until 12:01 p.m. of June 30, immediately after the 13 senators-elect take their oath of office. But as of yesterday, seven Senate staffers were already in line, having each brought their own chairs.

It appears to be serious business: They're keeping vigil there in eight-hour shifts.

Sen. Juan Flavier's man is first in the queue. Coming next, in this order, are the staff of Senators Sergio Osmeña, Noli de Castro, Franklin Drilon, Vicente Sotto, Loren Legarda and Teresa Oreta.

De Castro—topnotcher in the May elections, dislodging Flavier from the plum spot—would have also been the No. 1 bill filer.

According to Emily Castillo of the bills and index office, De Castro sent representatives as early as Friday afternoon but Senate guards blocked them from entering the building because they could not present identification cards.

The scuttlebutt is that Flavier's staff learned about De Castro's attempt at a fast break, and moved accordingly that very day.

After all, Flavier also beat his colleagues to the draw in 1998 by sending his man to line up a day before the bills and index office was to open.

The office accepts bills on a "first come, first served" basis. The first filed bill is also the first read when the chamber convenes. The second is next, and so on down the line.

Quantity

Flavier's people said they were filing more than 200 bills. The first is a proposed measure to regulate the advertising of cigarettes and related products.

Osmeña is filing 237 bills, with the first one proposing the amendment of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law.

De Castro's man said he had no idea what bills his boss was filing. A call to a relative of the senator-elect was not returned.

But Senate Secretary Lutgardo B. Barbo said the senators scrambling to get ahead of their peers in filing bills should also consider the substance of the proposed measures.

"Quality, not quantity," Barbo said, noting that the actor-turned-senator Ramon Revilla had also filed many bills, but these concerned mostly the renaming of streets.

NOT quite home, but the women are happy enough to share a meal with the other evacuees inside one of the classrooms of the Binitayan Elementary School in Legazpi, Albay. EDWIN BACASMAS

Evacuees go home . . .

(From page A1)

schools.

Hundreds of evacuees began returning to their homes around Mayon Volcano yesterday after it simmered down following a series of powerful explosions on Sunday.

Flabbergasted

Relief officials were flabbergasted at the sight of evacuees returning to their homes.

"No matter how much you try to stop them, they still wanted to go back. They are just hardheaded," social welfare department officer Yoly Ganzon said.

Cedric Daep, Provincial Disaster Management officer, saw problems ahead. "The problem here once the volcano erupts again, we will have to get all of them back into the evacuation centers."

Farmer Nilo Nuñez, 59, said he had to come back to Mabinit village to attend to his vegetable farm. "I am also afraid looters might steal our belongings," he said.

The once-lush colors of the vegetation in Nuñez's village had all but vanished in the clouds of volcanic ash, which had fallen on Mabinit, turning houses, trees and leaves gray.

The evacuees who stayed at the schools are posing problems to school officials.

"We bear with the plight of our brother evacuees, but we cannot sacrifice our students' learning requirement," Gloria Alpajaro, city schools superintendent, said.

Alpajaro was just echoing one of the problems faced by school officials every time evacuees, whether from Mayon's eruptions or typhoons, use their classrooms.

The problem is made more difficult by the fact that classes have just resumed in most public schools.

Teachers are required to conduct classes only in the afternoon to give time to the occupant-evacuees to secure their belongings and clean the rooms.

After the afternoon classes, the evacuees are asked to occupy the rooms.

In schools hosting evacuees, the Department of Education, Culture and Sports has ordered the holding of shortened sessions to maximize the use of rooms unoccupied by evacuees and to accommodate all the grade levels and sections.

In Tuburan Elementary School in Ligao City, the biggest and most prepared so far for evacuation in the city, about 90 percent of its classrooms are devoted to evacuees.

However, even short session classes have also been affected since yesterday morning.

Libraries were serving as additional rooms for classes.

"We are in a very difficult situation, and we expect others to understand our plight. But we also do not want to be a hindrance to the conduct of classes and we want to give way to the students," said Isabelita Esquivel, an evacuee from Barangay Bonga, a village of Legazpi City within the 6-kilometer danger zone.

Esquivel is temporarily staying at the Gogon Elementary School.

Public school students from areas affected by Mayon's eruption and their counterparts in schools declared as evacuation centers shared a common fate in yesterday's resumption of classes.

Student evacuees were definitely "forbidden" to return to their villages to attend classes.

In the first place, classes in their places have been suspended by the DECS.

Waste disposal

Because of the evacuees, school officials are faced with sanitation problems.

"The teaching staff and the students are ready to sacrifice. What they are appealing for is the maintenance of cleanliness and proper hygiene so that the students would be free from health hazards," Alpajaro said.

"While we would like to allow them to make use of our toilets, the depository system is just enough for the students' waste," a teacher told the INQUIRER.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit yesterday warned disaster officials and evacuees against the outbreak of communicable diseases due to overcrowding and lack of sanitation and exposure to volcanic ash.

Dayrit said that long-term exposure to (sulfuric) volcanic ash should be avoided.

"*Masama ang epekto nito sa baga at sa mata ng tao* (It brings ill effects to the lungs and eyes)," he said during a briefing of local disaster control officials at the Albay provincial capitol here.

He said excessive inhalation of volcanic ash might cause breathing difficulty and medical assistance should be sought immediately.

He reminded residents in Albay and nearby provinces who had been affected by the heavy ash fall from the recent eruption of Mayon Volcano to stay indoors, if necessary, to avoid exposure to the volcanic ash.

The southeastern monsoon wind (*habagat*) Saturday dumped an average of an inch of volcanic ash on Tabaco City in the northeastern part of Albay province while ash fall from subsequent eruptions covered Ligao City in half an inch of volcanic ash. ***With a report from Reuters***

More eruptions expected; 28,439 forced to flee homes

(From page A1)

7 p.m., Saturday.

The succeeding eruptions, which the Phivolcs described as vulcanian-type, were characterized by strong explosions, multiple pyroclastic flows around the volcano and lava flows that cascaded down the gullies in the southeast flank of the volcano.

With the influx of people into evacuation centers, authorities are again faced with challenges such as providing the evacuees with communal kitchens, toilets and water systems.

Vice Gov. James Calisin, Sangguniang Panlalawigan presiding chair, said declaring Albay under a state of calamity was aimed at giving local government units the power to disburse contingency funds for relief and rehabilitation.

The towns of Rapu-Rapu, Manito and Pioduran, however, have not been placed under a state of calamity.

Punongbayan was among top Cabinet officials sent by President Macapagal-Arroyo to Albay to assess the situation.

Others officials were Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, Social Welfare and Development Secretary Corazon Soliman, Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit, Office of Civil Defense Chief Melchor Rosales and Southern Luzon Command officials headed by Maj. Gen. Narciso Abaya.

The Cabinet officials brought with them a water purifier with a capacity of 20 cubic meters per hour, dust masks, medicines and other provisions.

Reyes said the Solcom had made available 28 additional army trucks for the evacuation of residents.

He assured Albayanos that the national government would do everything to assist them.

Soliman said they brought P631,920 worth of food and P1.9 million worth of non-food items and utensils.

She turned over at least 4,000 pieces of dust masks to disaster officials.

Dayrit handed over a total of P400,000 worth of medicines and set aside P600,000 as contingency fund.

During an open forum, Reyes received a call from President Macapagal that she was releasing an additional P5 million for the repair of schools being used as evacuation centers.

Blackout

On Sunday night as thousands of residents fled the danger zone, Albay and Sorsogon were hit by two consecutive brownouts.

National Power Corp. officials blamed the brownouts to the ash falls that corroded its distribution lines and equipment. A heavy downpour exacerbated the problem.

The first brownout occurred at around 7:20 p.m. and lasted for almost an hour. Another outage hit at about 8:10 p.m. and lasted for more than half an hour.

Antonio Licup, Napocor–Bicol area manager, said brownouts also hit Albay during Mayon's eruption in February 2000.

Until yesterday morning, Napocor was able to resume power supply only in some areas in Sorsogon and Albay.

Mayon, one of the country's 22 active volcanoes, has a history of 45 violent eruptions since its first recorded eruption in 1616. The deadliest occurred in 1814 when it buried a town under mud and rocks and killed 1,200 people.

Phivolcs said Mayon's latest eruption could last from one to two weeks.

"Mayon has no history of erupting only for a day. The probability is high that there will be more eruptions," resident volcanologist Ed Laguerta said.

"There are factors . . . that could lead to even stronger explosions," he said. "It's not yet time to go back. The danger is not over."

Punongbayan explained that before the Sunday eruption the sticky magma inside the volcano became more fluid.

At the start, the effused lava originated from a very sticky source, according to Punongbayan.

"From very sticky it became more fluid, moving at a rate of 1 kilometer per day. It is quiet but at present it is still in state of eruption," he said at a press briefing.

Laguerta said the pyroclastic flows on Sunday passed through seven major river channels in Barangays Basud, Sto. Domingo; Buyuan and Bonga, this city; Miisi, Daraga; Anoling, Camalig; Maninila, Guinobatan; Nabonton, Ligao City; and Buang in Tabaco City, all within the 6-kilometer permanent danger zone.

Gunfire

Mayon's eruption on Sunday was preceded by gunfire.

Two suspected New People's Army guerrillas shot dead an Army soldier in Barangay Taysan in this city on Saturday.

Army Maj. Jose Broso identified the victim as Cpl. Alfredo Jadie Jr. of the 74th Infantry Battalion.

"He was only getting his things from home because he was going to school for promotion," Broso told the INQUIRER.

On the same day, a seven-man team of Army soldiers and at least 10 NPA members clashed in Barangay Gapo, Daraga, while the soldiers were helping evacuate residents. Army officials denounced the attack.

Broso said that there were no reports of casualties on the part of the government.

"The soldiers were able to recover thee jump packs and subversive documents from the escaping rebels," he said.

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86TH RP OPEN

Kang coming back

US-BASED Korean Anthony Kang, who won the 1999 Philippine Open at Southwoods in dramatic fashion, will be back to compete in the 8th Philippine Open at Wack Wack .

The power-hitting Kang will spearhead an 84-man foreign contingent that will also include two others who have joined Kang among the Top 10 players on the Asian Tour.

Kang won this year's Myanmar Open.

The Wack Wack Open, co-presented by Casino Filipino and San Miguel Beer, is set for June 28 to July 1, with Gerald Rosales as the defending champion.

Kang, who is currently ranked seventh in the Asian Tour Order of Merit, will be in the company of Simon Yates of Scotland and American Clay Devers as among the favorites.

Devers, who swings like Jim Furyk, is fresh from a fighting third place finish in last week's Alcatel Singapore Masters.

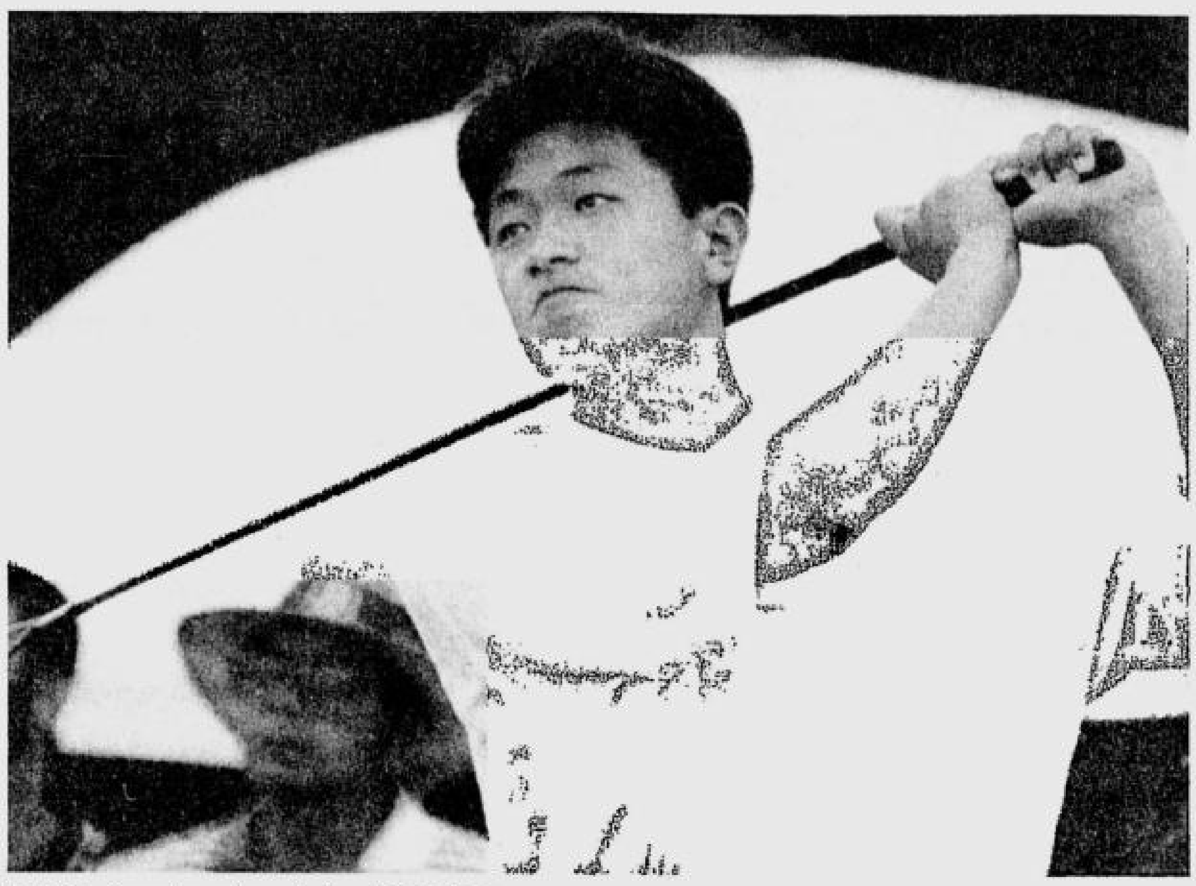
There are a total of 18 countries represented in the P9.5-million Open, which offers P1.5 million to the champion.

The last time the Open was held at Wack Wack in 1990, Robert Pactolerin won over American Lee Porter.

Rick Gibson, the former World Cupper who had played intensively in the Philippine Tour, also beat the registration deadilne to make it as the lone Canadian entry.

The countries now represented are Australia, Canada, Chinese-Taipei, Ecuador, Guam, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, Scotland, Singapore, South Africa, Sweden, Thailand, United States and Venezuela.

This year's Open has drawn the support of Mitsubishi Motors, Herma Group of Companies, Hope Luxury Cigarettes, Hanjin Shipping, Prudentialife Pension Plan, General Milling, Metrobank, Bingo Bonanza, Citra Tollways, Rudy Project, Unilever, Metrobank, Marsman Drysdale, Pyramid Construction, Mizuno, Solahart, Citgo, Wallem Shipping, Executive Golfers Club, The Riviera Golf and Country Club, Philippine Navy, GG&A Club Shares, Electrobus Consolidated, Philtec Label, U-Bix, PLDT, Aristocrat Lamps, Pacsports, Caffé Appassionato, Philippine Army, Philippine Navy Golf Club, Villamor Golf Club, G.E. Management, Golf Force, First Georgetown Ventures, Nextel and Cinnabon.



KANG: Surprise winner in the 1999 RP Open. FILE FOTO

Southwoods No. 1 for Golf Digest in RP

WHAT do golf clubs like Royal Birkdale (England), Valderrama (Spain), Spring City (China), Blue Canyon (Thailand), Royal Melbourne (Australia) and Manila Southwoods (Philippines) have in common?

The prestigious clubs have just firmed up their positions as the No. 1 clubs in their respective countries by the prestigious Golf Digest, one of the world's most widely read golf magazines.

The full list is included in the June issue of Golf Digest including its well-visited on-line edition golfdigest.com.

Golf Digest pinpointed 10 of the Philippines' 70 courses with Manila Southwoods as No. 1.

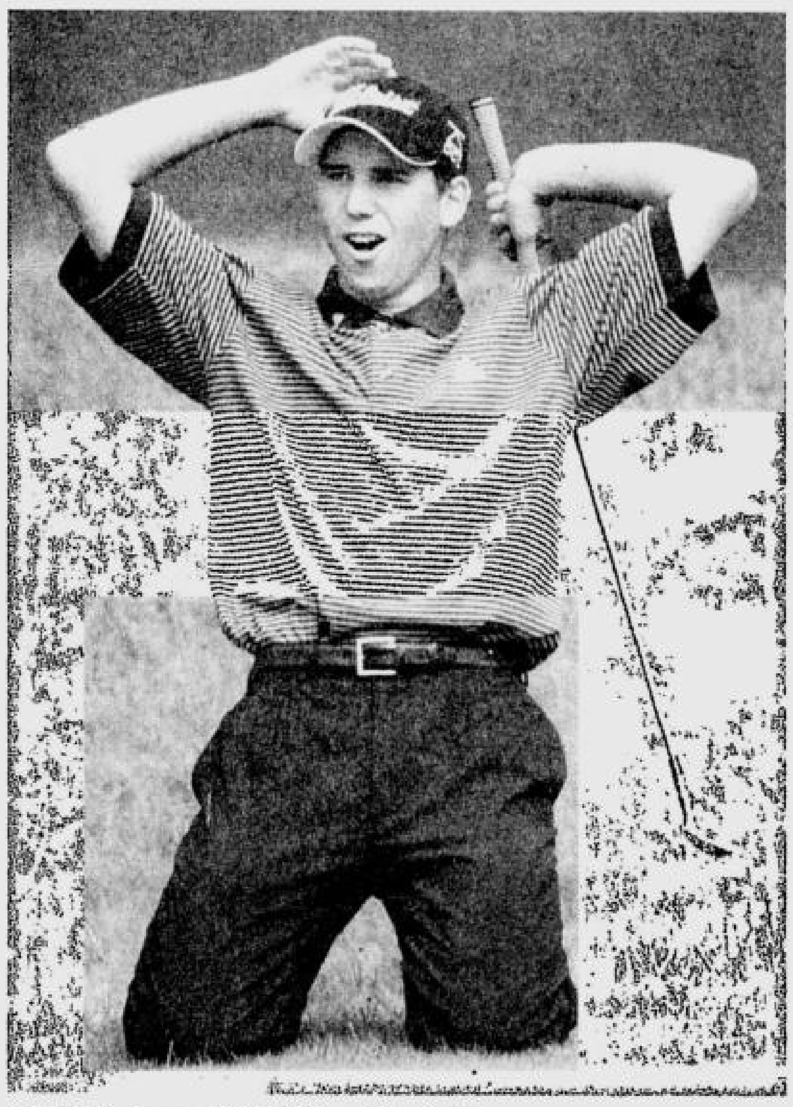
Sta. Elena is ranked second, Mimosa third, The Orchard fourth, Wack Wack fifth, Mt. Malarayat is No. 6, Tagaytay Highlands occupies the seventh slot, Canlubang No. 8, Luisita ninth and Puerto Azul 10th.

Golf Digest has aptly called its ranking of the top courses in 100 nations where golf is played as Planet Golf II, getting the help of 25 affiliated magazines in various countries to update the roster.

Planet Golf II was also released with the intention of guiding Golf Digest readers for their prospective summer holidays.

The Golf Digest rating keeps Southwoods' big streak of international acclaim this year. It had earlier been acknowledged as the back-to-back Venue of the Year by the Asian PGA Tour (the first club ever to achieve the feat) and course of the year by the Asia Golf Magazine.

The other country leaders named were Saujana (Malaysia), Laguna National (Singapore), Hirono (Japan), Nirwana Bali (Indonesia), Hyatt Dorado (Puerto Rico), G. de Chantilly (France) and Buenos Aires (Argentina).



GARCIA: Second PGA title within sight. AP

Garcia leaves Woods far back at Buick tilt

HARRISON, New York—Sergio Garcia neared his second career PGA Tour victory Sunday, and one golfer he may not have to contend with in the final round of the Buick Classic is Tiger Woods.

Garcia had a 5-under 66 during Sunday's rain-delayed third round for a two-shot lead at 12-under 201, and led Woods by 8 shots. Woods hit some errant irons on his last nine holes after a fast start en route to a 3-under 68.

The largest third-round deficit Woods has ever made up to win on the PGA tour was five shots at last year's Pebble Beach AT&T National Pro-Am.

Scott Hoch, the second-round leader with Garcia at 7-under, also had a 68 Sunday and was second at 10-under 203.

J.P. Hayes shot 67 Sunday and was alone in third a stroke behind Hoch. Stewart Cink, Russ Cochran and Gabriel Hjertstedt were at 7-under 206.

The final round will be Monday. Thursday's opening round was interrupted by rain and Saturday's third round was pushed back to Sunday after a downpour left several holes at the Westchester Country Club waterlogged.

Garcia nearly won the Buick Classic last year. He led in the final round but took a double-bogey after driving into the trees at No. 11 and trying to hit the ball onto the green instead of hacking it out into the fairway. He finished third.

After several other near misses, the 21-year-old Spaniard finally won his first PGA five weeks ago at the Colonial.

Garcia's best stretch Sunday came on the front nine, when he birdied Nos. 5 and 6 and nearly drove the green on the short par-4 seventh. He flopped a wedge shot there which landed about 1.5 meters (5 feet) from the cup and rolled in for an eagle-2. *AP*

Intramuros hosts PSA circuit

THE SIXTH leg of the 2001 PSA Golf circuit sponsored by Alaska will be played at Club Intramuros today.

The Bulletin's Ding Marcelo, Sun Star's Ernie Gonzales and People's Journal's Musong Castillo are bunched at the top of the Class A division, with Castillo leading by just 20 points over Marcelo and by 35 over Gonzales with his 260 points.

Marcelo will be coming off a win, ruling the San Miguel leg in Wack Wack last month with Castillo and Gonzales finishing tied for second.

Rey Bancod of Tempo waltzed away with the Class B crown at Wack Wack, but will have a lot of catching up to do with Badong Hilario of the Bulletin leading the field with a 370-total.

The 2001 PSA Golf Circuit has a total of 10 legs with the Grand Championship to be held in December. Also backing the event is the Philippine Basketball Association and its member teams.

K. Webb completes history

WEBB

WILMINGTON, Delaware — No one ever won a career Grand Slam as quickly as Karrie Webb, or made it look so easy.

If only everyone knew how hard it was _ picking up the final leg of the Grand Slam while her grandfather lay in critical condition in Australia after a stroke.

Webb delivered an early knockout Sunday with three straight birdies, then ignored a late charge from Laura Diaz to win the LPGA Championship by two strokes and become the youngest woman to complete the Grand Slam.

"This is for you Granddad," Webb said as she walked off the 18th green, tears streaming down her face.

Mick Collinson, 71, suffered a stroke on Thursday and took a turn for the worse Saturday evening. Webb didn't decide to play the final round until 8 a.m. Sunday, then turned it into a touching tribute that affirmed her as the best player in women's golf.

"I don't know how I did what I did today," she said.

Despite bogeys on the last two holes that she could afford, Webb closed with a 2-under-par 69.

Coming off an eight-stroke victory in the U.S. Women's Open just 21 days ago, Webb led by as many as six strokes early in the Sunday's round and was never seriously challenged. She finished at 270 and earned $ 225,000.

It was another dominant performance by Webb, who has won her last four majors—including consecutive U.S. Opens _ by a combined 25 strokes.

The 26-year-old Australian became the fifth woman to win the LPGA's four majors. The others are Juli Inkster, Louise Suggs, Pat Bradley and Mickey Wright, who was 27 when she won the career Grand Slam in 1962.

"To do it a year ahead of Mickey Wright, at a time when the depth of talent is the best it's ever been, will ultimately go down as one of the biggest achievements in women's golf," LPGA commissioner Ty Votaw said.

Tiger Woods is the youngest player to complete the slam, doing it last year at St. Andrews when he was 24.

But no one has won all four in such a short period of time.

Only two years ago, Webb was getting annoyed by questions of when she would win her first major. Just like everything else in her career, the response was swift and decisive.

It took her only eight majors to complete the Grand Slam —Woods went 15 majors between the first and final leg.

Webb now has won five of the last eight majors, the most dominant stretch in women's golf since Wright won five of six from 1961-62. Even more shocking is the way she has overwhelmed the best fields on the best courses.

"As far as pure golf, she's the best I've ever seen," said Inkster, who won the U.S. Open and LPGA Championship just 21 days apart in 1999 to complete the slam. "She makes it look so effortless." *AP*

Gran Copa resets record gross sales

MANILA Jockey Club Inc. further solidified its standing as the country's premier race club following last Sunday's blockbuster staging of the "22nd Gran Copa de Manila Day," which grossed a record high of P41.59 million, the highest ever weekly total gross since the introduction of the five-day racing format.

"We are truly overwhelmed by the enormous support given by the racing public to this year's Gran Copa festivities, and for that, we share with them the honor of being a part of this unprecedented milestone in local horse racing," said MJCI president Alfonso R. Reyno Jr.

Reyno said, "The success of the Gran Copa was a clear expression of their abiding commitment to quality horse racing, which has long been the thrust of the Manila Jockey Club."

Last Sunday's Gran Copa Day sales of P41,590,601 easily eclipsed the previous record high of P36,913,201 set on Nov. 19, 2000, during the Marho Breeders' Cup Day at the Santa Ana Park.

Sharing the limelight in last Sunday's highly successful staging of the "22nd Gran Copa de Manila" were the impressive victories of outstanding galloper Wind Blown and long shot Hyperbid in the two division "Gran Copa de Manila" Stakes Races.

Suarez, Del Rosario topple bowling foes

CJ Suarez racked up two victories, including a stirring 237-196 win over second seeded Chen Chi Jung of Chinese-Taipei, Saturday as he barged into the semifinal round of the CGU Asian Bowling Tour even as Liza del Rosario humbled Arianne Cerdena then stunned top seed Jennifer Tan of Singapore in a thrilling match at Pearl Plaza's Pearl Bowling Center.

The 22-year-old Suarez, one of the spearheads of the country's bid in this years's SEA Games in Malaysia, overpowered compatriot Benny Dy, 248-203, in the first round then delighted the capacity crowd with a string of strikes that shoved him past the fancied Taiwanese bet in the quarters.

He will face another Filipino bet—Chester King—in the semis, thus ensuring the Philippines' stint in the final of this $25,000 event, organized by ESPN Star Sports and serving as the second leg of an eight-stage series played under the knockout format.

King, who finished sixth in the kickoff leg in Malaysia in April, rattled off a seven-bagger en route to a 246-220 victory over Botchok Rey in the first round then outlasted Frederick Ong in the quarterfinals, 246-212, in their own side of the duel.

Dableo wins unscathed

Final Standings

Dableo 7.5 points; Garma, Nolte, Paragua 6.5; Donguines, Vasquez, Nadera, Milagrosa 5; Lao, Pacis, Bernardino, Senador 5.

NEEDING only a draw to formally bag the top spot in the Qualification Tournament for the Asian Continental Championship, National Master Ronald Dableo agreed to an early 19-move ceasefire with IM Chito Garma in the ninth and final round on Sunday at the Centermall, Greenhills Shopping center, San Juan, Metro Manila.

Dableo, a 22-year-old fourth year BS Management student at San Sebastian College, thus finished the nine-round Swiss system tournament unbeaten with six wins and three draws for a total of 7.5 points to lead six other qualifiers to the Asian Continental bash set for Aug. 9-20.

"Malaking panalo ito para sa akin dahil nandito na halos ang malakas na players. Siyempre, excited din ako na i-represent ang Pilipinas sa India," said Dableo.

Garma made it as the No. 2 qualifier, but clinched the highly contested spot only after beating two other 6.5 pointers NM Rolando Nolte and 17-year-old IM Mark Paragua via a superior tiebreak.

Peace chessfest June 30

THE BATTLE for choice slots in the match play quarterfinals of the 2001 Philippine Executive Active Chess Express or Peace 2001 heats up when the ninth leg unfolds on June 30, Saturday, at Land Bank's Multi-Purpose Hall on Gil Puyat Avenue in Makati City.

The 11-leg event, which will culminate in a grand final in September, is sponsored by DNS Company and organized by the Active Chess Center of Asia (ACCA) in cooperation with Belgosa Media Systems, Land Bank, Tabilog Cargo Services, Topmost Engineering, Travel Café and the National Sports Grill.

In the Harmony section, Jenny Mayor and Dennis San Juan are tied for the lead with 132 points each. Gary Legaspi is at third with 119; Douglas Peña fourth, 117; and youthful Romel Asoque fifth with 107.

Defending champion Jose Ventura Aspiras (93), Tyrone Guya (96) and veteran Leodegario Ricana (84) are close behind.

In the Serenity section, Cyrus Atienza, with 133 points, has a commanding 27-point lead over second-running Raul Villate.

Business executives and professionals who wish to join PEACE 2001, call Acca at tel. no. 892-8759 for details.

Makings of a great champ

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

HIS first defeat came because of carelessness. He fought like a drunk: All offense and no defense. Like rebels without a cause, he believed too much in his brute power that he forgot all about the sweet science, which was that boxing is mainly the art of self-defense.

His second defeat came because nature intervened. He was a growing kid. The law of nature made him bigger. When it was time for him to defend the crown, nature had done its homework; he could not make the weight limit in the flyweight division where he was king. Before he even climbed the ring, his crown was gone. Atop the ring where he had to fight for formalities against a Thai, there was no fight in him at all. He looked for refuge that never existed. When he came home, he was not only crownless, he was also almost friendless. They make orphans out of losers, remember?

Two defeats. To me, they don't exist in the ring record of Manny Pacquiao, 24. They are but teardrops, lonely but not costly. Make him fight while he's in tip-top shape and he'll beat anyone. Anytime. Anywhere. Against a superbly conditioned Pacquiao, an opponent will surely fall once he gets hit.

Marty Elorde, son of the legendary Flash Elorde, believed in Pacquiao and brought the kid to the United States, where boxing is big time, last month.

To prepare for the mission, Marty injected some sense into the fighting style of Pacquaio: Rage, rage and rage but make the raging methodical.

"I know Marty," said Hermie Rivera. "He put some science in Pacquiao's style."

And so, in his fight against Ledwaba on Sunday in Las Vegas, Nevada, Pacquiao was still the raging bull that he was. But the raging was now interlaced with methodical, if not surgical, precision. Witness the fact that he did not rush things up after he knocked down the South African in the second round. Had this been 1999, or even 2000, Pacquiao would have swarmed all over the African, unloaded everything in Round 2; it could have been fatal—for Pacquiao. For one, Ledwaba wasn't a world super-bantamweight champion (122 pounds) for nothing. For another, Ledwaba was unbeaten in the last 2-1/2 years; he's had only two defeats in a 33-2 record before Sunday's fight.

I knew Pacquiao would win the very minute Round 1 was over.

I knew Pacquiao would win by knockout.

And I knew that the only way he could have lost was by being careless. And he was not. Hermie was right. Marty transformed Pacquiao from a bull that rages without let-up to a bull that rages but with a set-up.

The set-up came in the sixth, the round Pacquiao picked to knock the champion out.

With barely a minute left in the round, Pacquiao's killer left struck Ledwaba's left cheek, sending the African on the seat of his pants. Although he got up to beat the count, it was clear Ledwaba was ripe for the slaughterhouse. A flurry of punches dropped him like a log, for a while laying flat on his back almost motionless for Pacquiao's 23rd knockout in 33 victories.

The first time I saw Pacquiao, then barely 20, knock out an Australian-trained foe while I covered him from ringside in Kidapawan in 1998, I knew the kid would go places. I said then that he would become more than a world champion. He would become a great champ, if not a legendary fighter.

On one condition though if I may repeat: That he's in tip-top shape before he fights.

BASEBALL RESULTS

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Atlanta 8, N.Y. Mets 4; Montreal 11, Pittsburgh 4; Milwaukee 6, Chicago Cubs 3; Houston 7, Cincinnati 5; Colorado 7, Arizona 6; Philadelphia 9, Florida 3; San Diego 6, Los Angeles 1; St. Louis 7, San Francisco 3.

AMERICAN LEAGUE :Toronto 5, Boston 2; Minnesota 14, Detroit 5; Tampa Bay 5, N.Y. Yankees 4; Chicago White Sox 8, Baltimore 2; Cleveland 4, Kansas City 2; Texas 9, Oakland 5; Seattle 7, Anaheim 3. *AP*

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor **EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA**, Assistant Editor

Braves score sweep vs Mets

NEW YORK — Brian Jordan hit a tiebreaking three-run homer in a seventh-inning rally that began with Rafael Furcal's bunt double, and the Atlanta Braves beat the New York Mets 8-4 Sunday for a three-game sweep. Furcal went 4-for-5 for the first four-hit game of his career, scored three runs and stole a pair of bases. The Braves took advantage of catcher Mike Piazza by stealing four bases in six tries, including a swipe of second by Furcal on a third-inning pitchout. *AP*

LEADERSHIP ROW

World cage body suspends BAP

BY JUNE NAVARRO

THE International Basketball Federation (Fiba), the world governing body in basketball, has suspended the Basketball Association of the Philippines for having two factions performing the same functions.

In a faxed notice to the Philippine Olympic Committee, Fiba secretary general Borislav Stankovic cited Article 6 of the organization's by-laws, stating that only one national basketball federation per country may be recognized by the Switzerland-based Fiba.

As a result, the country will not be allowed to "take part in any official international competition sanctioned by the Fiba."

Fiba-sanctioned events include the Olympics, Asian Games and the Southeast Asian Games, which will be held this September in Kuala Lumpur.

LITERAL

PUYAT

The Fiba suspension stemmed from the elections held on June 7 by Gonzalo Puyat II's camp and the court-ordered polls on June 20 where Tiny Literal was chosen as president.

It said the presence of two leaders representing one national basketball federation was directly against a provision in the Fiba by-laws of having only one national basketball federation per country.

The Asian Basketball Confederation was also furnished a copy of the Fiba directive.

POC president Celso Dayrit said he would immediately arrange a meeting with Puyat and Literal and find a common ground to settle the dispute.

. He said the problem should be solved before the July 15 deadline for submission of lineups set by the SEA Games organizing committee.

"Both of them (Puyat and Literal) should realize that the name of the country and the welfare of the athletes are at stake," said Dayrit. "They will have to sit down and put their act together."

Puyat couldn't be reached for comment but former BAP president Freddie Jalasco spoke in their group's behalf.

"It's very unfortunate. I hope in the next few days we could settle this. A compromise should be reached between the two groups," said Jalasco.

As for Literal, he said that their group would appeal to the Fiba and keep their options open.

"Indeed a sad day for Philippine basketball and we are willing to find the best solution to solve the problem," said Literal.

Though the longevity of the suspension is indefinite, the Fiba offered two options for the feuding parties to settle their rift.

One is that the conflicting parties should sign a conciliatory document accepted by the POC as the highest sports authority in the country recognized by the Fiba.

Another alternative is the submission of both parties to a Fiba panel acting as an arbitration committee, in accordance with Fiba's regulations governing appeals.

The Fiba also blacklisted the country's international referees and stripped off the BAP's right to participate and vote in either the Fiba World or ABC Congress.

La Salle, Alaska 5 meet today

DEFENDING UAAP champion La Salle hosts Alaska today as the second leg of the Rexona-PBA Ultimate Challenge goes to the Green Archers' lair on Taft Avenue in Manila.

The Archers, who will aim to win the UAAP crown for the third straight time this year, and the Aces will play a friendly 40-minute game at the La Salle gym in the series also backed by Hanford.

FEU was edged by Red Bull in the Tour opener recently. Five more colleges and universities which are traditional powers in both the UAAP and the NCAA will also see action.

Time Cone, Alaska's Grand Slam coach, and La Salle alumnus Don Carlos Allado will give their respective inspirational talks during halftime of the game to be played using amateur rules and four 10-minute quarters.

SSC tries to regain top form

SAN Sebastian eyes to regain its winning tradition in the forthcoming 77th season of the National Collegiate Athletic Association basketball championships kicking off July 7 at the Araneta Coliseum.

Coach Arturo Valenzona, guesting at the Scoop sa Kamayan West Avenue recently, bared that the acquisition of 6-7 Fil-Am Pep Moore, who played for South Carolina High, and other talented new recruits has beefed up the Stags lineup this year.

"I should say 50-50 *pa rin ang* chances *namin* to get into the championship. But I believe *na mas malaki ang* chances *namin* this year *dahil may* legitimate center *na kami*," said Valenzona.

"We also got new talented recruits *na maganda naman ang ginawa sa dalawang* off-season tournaments *na sinalihan namin*," he added.

Valenzona said these tournaments proved to be challenging enough that the character he wanted from his wards emerged.

Ritualo out of ABC team list

BY DENNIS EROA

STARTING on the wrong foot.

By not including former amateur basketball player of the year Ren Ren Ritualo of Welcoat Paints, the list of aspirants for the Philippine team which will see action in the 21st ABC Championships, has become considerably weaker.

With his sharpshooting ways, Ritualo, a master of the pick, is needed to help the nationals offset the tremendous height and heft advantage of defending champion China, Kazakhastan, Japan, Saudi Arabia and South Korea in the event slated from July 20-28 in Shanghai.

A former national youth standout, Ritualo, 22, will play a crucial role in breaking the deadly Chinese zone. He is also known for his hustle. An INQUIRER source said Ritualo's name wasn't included in the 20-man list because of his commitment with La Salle in the coming UAAP wars.

This was the same reason for the non-inclusion of other standouts namely Ateneo's Enrico Villanueva, Rainier Sison and Rich Alvarez and FEU's Leo Avenido. Challenge Cup MVP Chester Tolomia, who is seeing action for University of Perpetual Help-Rizal in the NCAA, also didn't make it.

The list was compiled by a five-man committee composed of Moying Martelino, Freddie Jalasco, Renaldo Tang, lawyer Gregorio Narvasa II and Chino Trinidad, MBA and PBL commissioners, respectively.

Recommended for the coaching staff are Junel Baculi of Welcoat, Shark's Leo Austria and Leo Isaac of Montaña Pawnshop.

Montaña big man Francis Zamora, one of the PBL top defenders and a tenacious rebounder, is also in the list. The complete roster: Jacques Gottenbos, Ranidel de Ocampo (Montaña); Jojo Manalo, Eugene Tan, Celino Cruz, Yancy de Ocampo, Derick Canlas (Welcoat); Egay Billones, Edwin Bacani, Eric de la Cuesta, Marlon Legaspi, Francis Sanz (GIV Beauty Soap); Michael Robinson, Earvin Sotto, Warren Ybañez (Shark); Dondon Mendoza, Roland Pascual (Ana Freezers), Alvin Castro (Osaka Iridology) and Cyrus Baguio (Hapee).

UST cagers gain Streetball finals

IRENE Cahilig, flashing the form that gave the Philippines the Asian title last year, sank two crucial free throws in the last 30 seconds to lead Team Galaxy to a 9-7 victory over Team Hypnotize Sunday in the NCR finals of the Adidas Streetball Challenge at SM Megamall.

With two teammates in foul trouble, Cahilig took charge, but was fouled driving to the basket. She sank a free throw and was fouled after forcing a turnover on the return play.

Cahilig then buried what turned out to be the clincher with 18 seconds left to send the all-UST squad to the national finals of this three-on-three cage event on Aug. 18-19 in Manila.

In the senior division, Paolo Orbeta of St. Benilde led Team Evolution over Team Clutch, 15-13.

Team Galaxy and Team Evolution, and the three other division winners, were awarded the top prize of P5,000 cash and P10,000 worth of Adidas sports gear.

Team Exalta beat Team Torra Liga, 12-9, in the junior finals; Team Galeno dumped Team Buzzer Beater, 18-5, in the midget finals and Team Flash nipped Team Strat, 8-4, to capture the Streetball on Wheels title, which made its debut.

Liberty tally 7th victory

NEW YORK — Becky Hammon scored 16 of her 21 points in the second half of a physical game as the New York Liberty beat the Los Angeles Sparks 82-69 in the WNBA Sunday for their seventh straight victory.

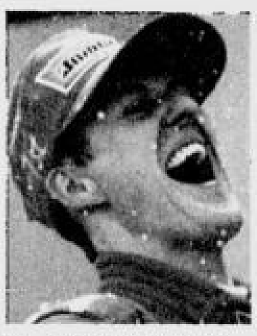
New York's Tamika Whitmore was ejected with just over three minutes remaining after a flagrant foul that sent Sparks star Lisa Leslie sprawling under the basket.

There were a total of five technical fouls in the game.

Tari Phillips, Crystal Robinson and Whitmore added 13 points apiece for New York (8-3), which tied the franchise record for consecutive wins. The Liberty won their first seven games in 1997, the WNBA's inaugural season. *AP*

M. Schumacher tops GP, nears tying Prost record

NURBURG, Germany—Three-time world Formula One champion Michael Schumacher won the European Grand Prix here on Sunday though a 10-second penalty imposed on his brother Ralf helped his cause.



M. SCHUMACHER

The 32-year-old Ferrari driver, who won his fifth race of the season to move within two victories of all-time Grand Prix winner Alain Prost's mark of 51, beat home Colombia's Juan-Pablo Montoya in a Williams-BMW while British driver David Coulthard in a McLaren was third.

Schumacher's win moved him on to 68 points and even further ahead in the title race with his nearest and only realistic challenger Coulthard 24 points behind with eight races to go.

Ralf filled fourth spot while Rubens Barrichello was fifth in the other Ferrari and two-time world champion Mika Hakkinen's disappointing season continued as he finished sixth.

The next race in the series is the French Grand Prix next Sunday.

The crucial moment of the race came on the 40th lap when Ralf was penalized 10 seconds for crossing the white line at the end of the pit lane as he exited after both he and Michael had come in with Ralf right on his brother's tail.

Michael had been somewhat fortunate to escape the same penalty as he had suddenly changed his mind at the last second which meant him crossing over the white line at the beginning of the pit lane and come in when he realized his younger brother was pitting for more fuel. *AFP*

Subic hosts jetsports tourney

EXCITING watersports action takes centerstage anew as favored riders, led by first leg winner Carlo Baltao and defending champion Paul del Rosario, dispute top honors in the second leg of the 2001 JSAP Jetsports National Series this Saturday (June 30) at the Subic Waterfront Beach.

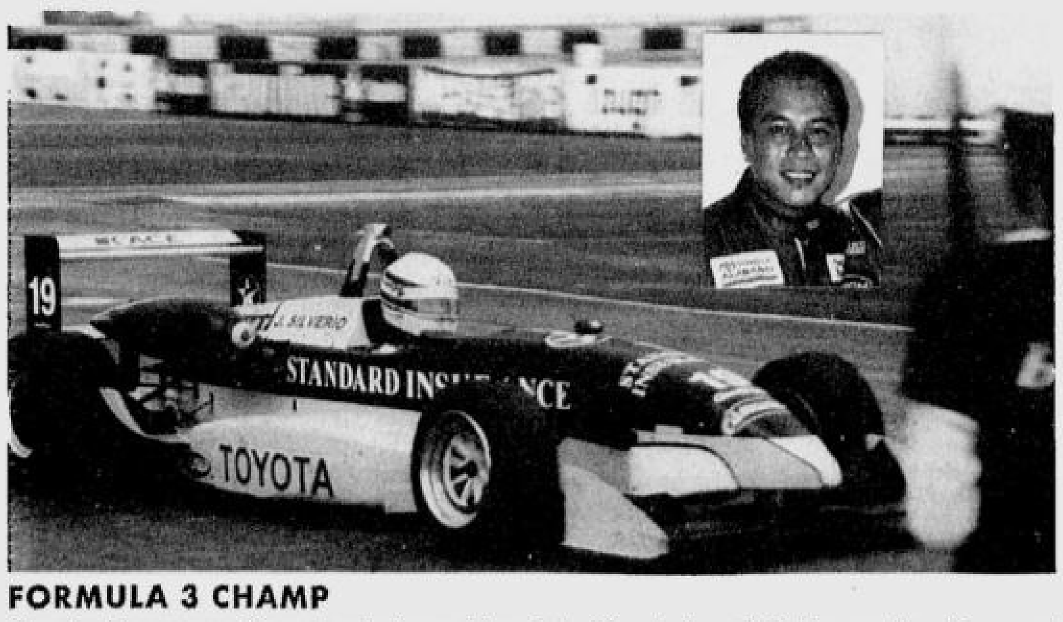
New JSAP president Joey Mantolino urged all participating riders to join the general meeting and riders' briefing on Wednesday (June 27) at 8 p.m. at Whistle Stop-Libis, Quezon City.

Baltao took a big headstart for this year's coveted Rider of the Year award, gaining 120 points in the Super Stock Expert Runabout 785 class of this event supported by Petron Corp.

But Del Rosario vowed to stage a big comeback after being plagued by engine problems in the 99.5RT Watercross Challenge last month.

Sister Wacky del Rosario also hopes to preserve her lead in the premiere Super Stock Expert Runabout 1200 class against equally tough Expert rivals Ben Sun Que, veteran racer Roland Hermoso, Toto Mantolino, BJ Ang, James Baltao and Pagadian-native Rene Pamaran.

Another highlight of the event is the one-hour Offshore Enduro race where a big field of 17 riders have confirmed their participation, among them Noel and Nilo Santigao, Andrew Young, Wilfred So, Perry Yao, Roland Aguila and first leg winner BJ Ang.



FORMULA 3 CHAMP

Standard Insurance-Race-Tom's team driver Jojo Silverio (inset), in his car No. 19, swept both the two legs of the Asian Formula 3-Championship races last Sunday at the Subic International Raceway in Olongapo City.

Davao soccer slated

DAVAO CITY—Epson-Davao City launches its title-retention bid in the Rexona National Women's Football Championship which kicks off Wednesday at the Kapitan Tomas Monteverde Sports Complex here.

Vic Sai, Davao Football Association president, said that aside from the host squad, seven other teams will see action in the tournament organized by the Philippine Football Federation and sponsored by Rexona.

"The teams are Pagadian City, Cagayan de Oro, Iligan City University of San Carlos Cebu, UP-Cebu, Bukidnon, Davao Sur and Davao Norte Selection," Sai said.

Sai added that the tourney is part of the Rexona Ultimate Challenge Series.

Simple opening rites will precede hostilities with PFF president Rene Adad, Davao City Vice Mayor Luis Bonguyan and city administrator Nestor Ledesma invited to grace the occasion.

SPORTS ON TV

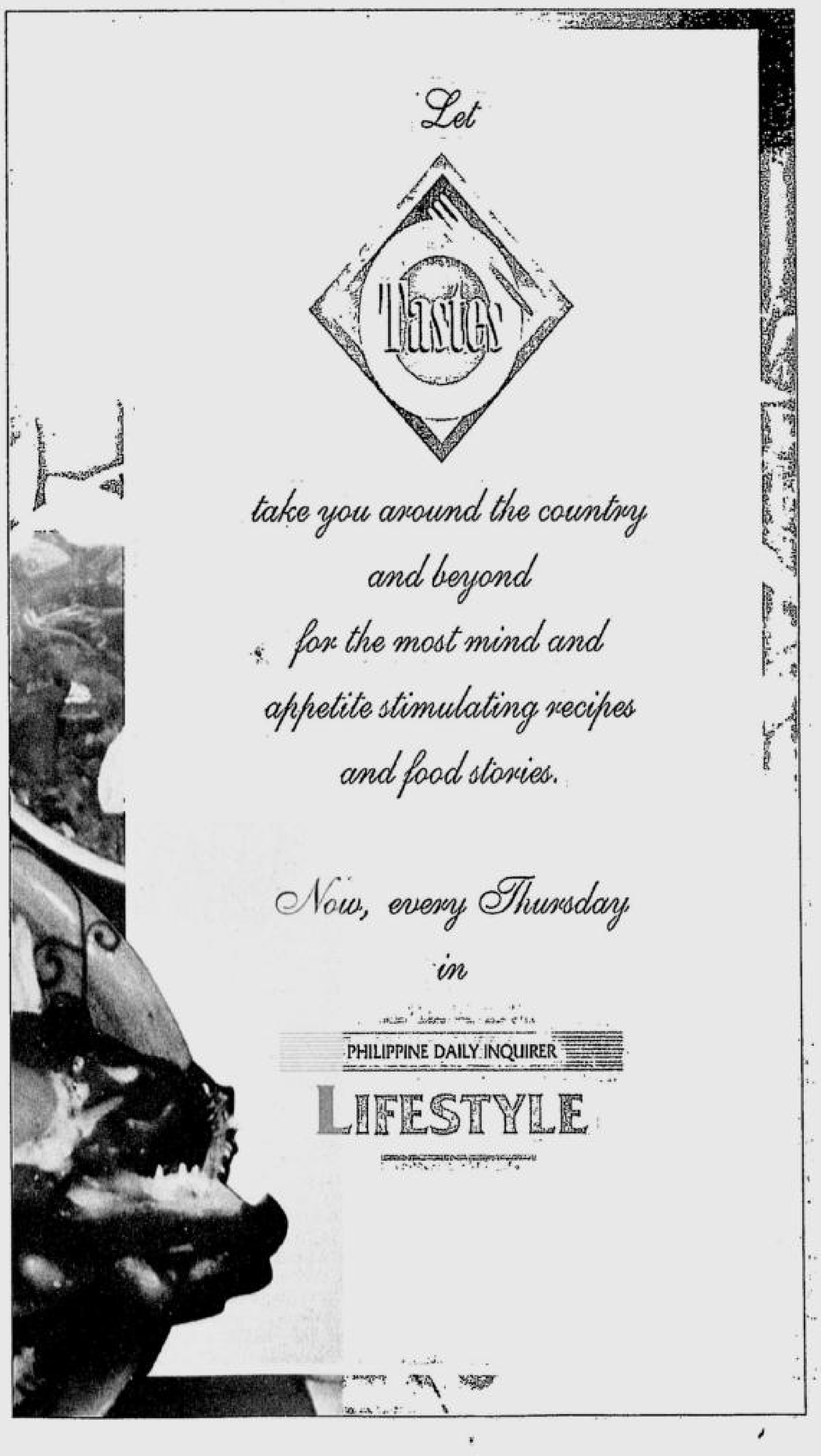
COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

TENNIS: Wimbledon - Day 1 Highlights at 8 a.m. (r – 7 p.m.), Day 1, First Round at 12 noon (r), Day 2, First Round at 8 p.m. on Star Sports

GOLF: PGA Buick Classic, Second Round at 9 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

BASKETBALL: WNBA - Minnesota Lynx vs Washington Mystics at 8 a.m. (r – 9 p.m.) on ESPN

VOLLEYBALL: BCV Volley Masters 2001 - Cuba vs China at 11 a.m. (r), Croatia vs Netherlands at 2:30 p.m. (r), Japan vs Italy at 8 p.m., Russia vs USA at 9:30 p.m. on ESPN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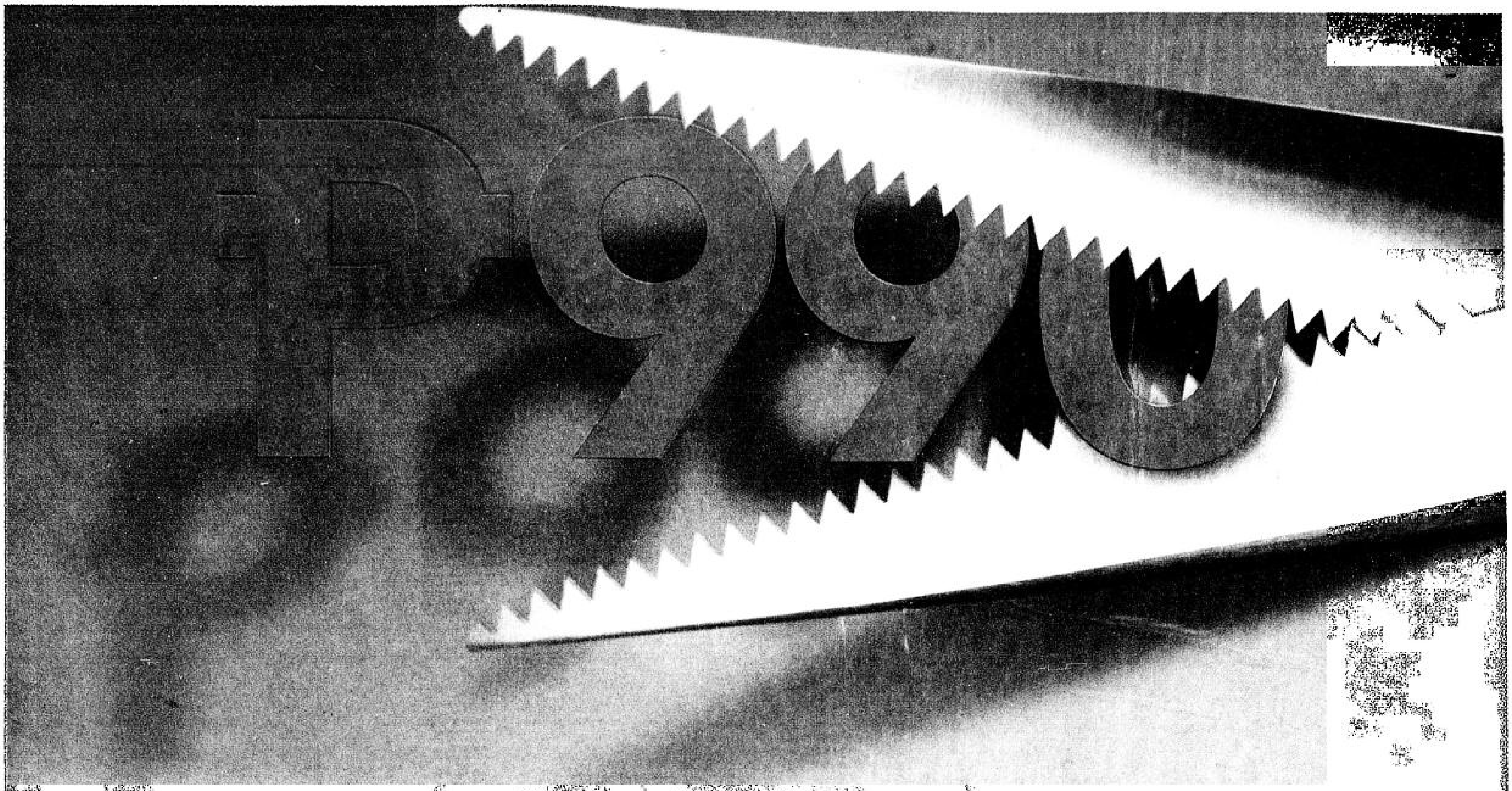

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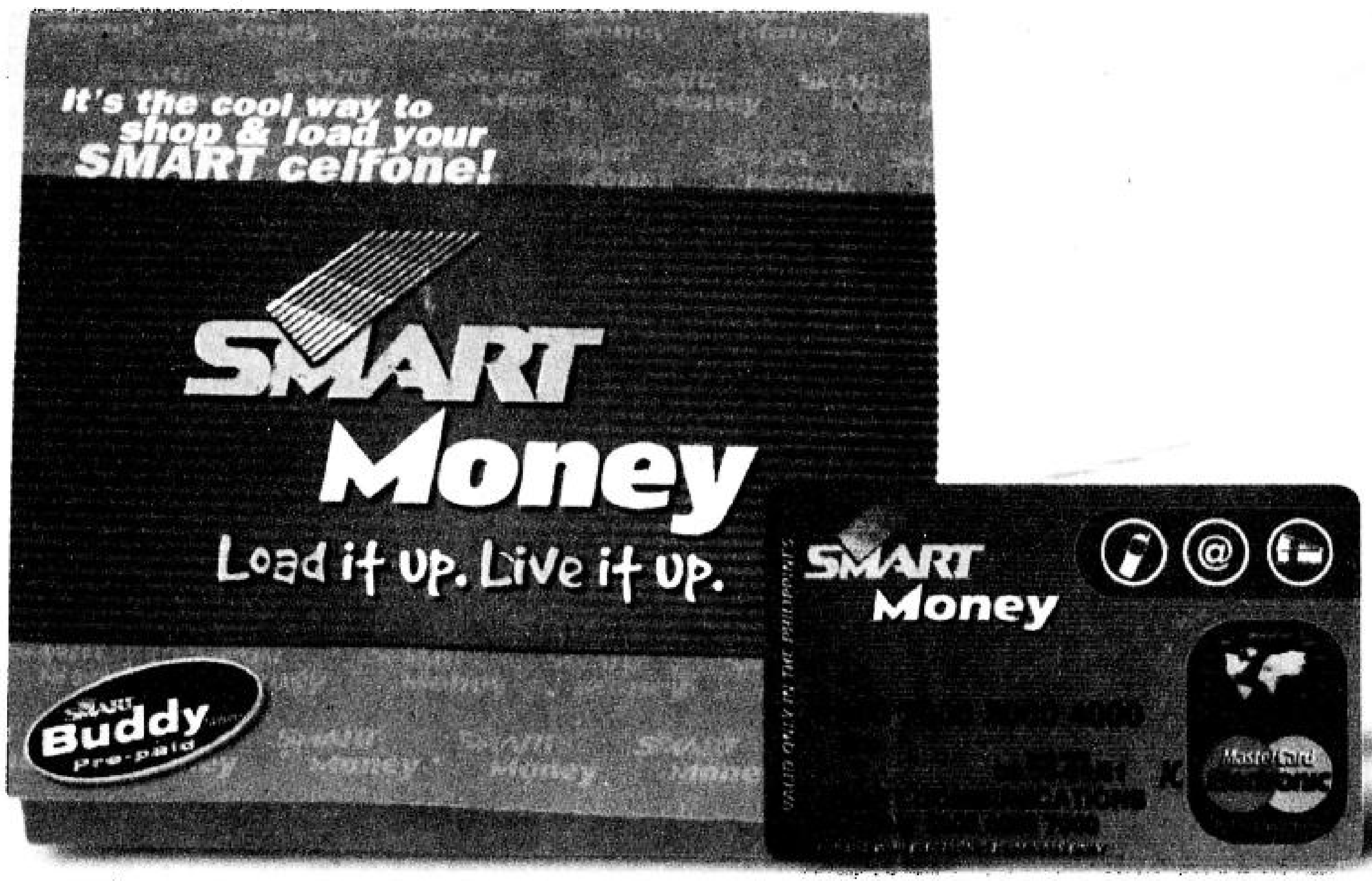
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Man gets 14 years for P3 slay
A20

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

'Don't let my son's death be in vain'

By CARLITO PABLO

THE FATHER of slain UST student Mark Welson Chua yesterday accepted with a plea for justice a posthumous award for his son, given by the Armed Forces of the Philippines during the flag ceremony in Camp Aguinaldo.

"Please do not let Mark's death be in vain," Wilson Chua pleaded in an emotional speech.

"When you remember Mark and his death, remember his struggle was against the scalawags and the misfits in uniform who managed and prostituted the institutions," Chua said.

He expressed gratitude to the AFP but also called on the military to go after his son's killers.

"With this award must come true justice," he said.

Mark Welson, Chua's only son, was 19 and an engineering student at the University of Sto. Tomas when he was murdered in March after exposing anomalies in the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program at the university. *(See related story below)*

Mark's body was found wrapped in a carpet and floating in the Pasig River on March 18. His face was wrapped with packing tape and his hands and feet were bound.

Mark was posthumously awarded the Outstanding Achievement Medal with a citation signed by AFP chief Gen. Diomedio Villanueva.

Mark's family turned up for the awarding ceremony.

"Mark would have wanted to receive it himself," said the older Chua.

Mark's death had sparked moves ranging from reforms of the ROTC to its outright abolition. But his father yesterday reminded the AFP that his son was one with the military because he sought to reform one of its institutions.

Chua said that while there may

CHEd/A20

CHEd backs optional ROTC

By BLANCHE S. RIVERA

THE COMMISSION on Higher Education yesterday backed the abolition of compulsory military training in college even as it chided the Department of National Defense for failing to justify the inclusion of the training in the curriculum.

CHEd chair Ester Garcia urged Congress to approve a bill that would make enlistment in the Reserve Officers Training Corps optional in private tertiary schools.

She said the DND surprisingly supported the move for the scrapping of ROTC in the college curriculum following several ROTC-related incidents of violence in universities.

"I think the reason the DND is willing (to support us) is that very few are recruited to the military," Garcia said in a press briefing yesterday. "They know that ROTC did not serve its purpose."

CHEd executive director Roger Perez said less than 40,000 are recruited to the Armed Forces of the Philippines, a mere tenth of the 400,000 ROTC graduates every year.

Perez said the National Defense Act, which requires all male college students to undergo ROTC as a prerequisite to graduation, should be amended because it was "discriminatory."

He said the law required "all able-bodied Filipino citizens" to undergo military training, but only those who are enrolled in a four-year course are actually complying with the law.

"The out-of-school youth and those in two-year courses do not undergo

CHEd/ A20

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

TRAFFIC 'FEE'

An unidentified traffic aide collects money from jeepney drivers at the corner of Dapitan and A. Lacson streets near the University of Sto. Tomas in Sampaloc, Manila. Paying the "fee" allows the drivers to pick and unload passengers at the busy intersection, causing a traffic jam during rush hours. When this picture was taken, a group of policemen was about 10 meters away as part of the increased police visibility at the university belt.

Dirty Metro Manila 'no man's land' soon

By RAFAEL R. CASTILLO, MD
The Charter Bureau

(Last of two parts)

WHAT does all of this polluted air do to the body?

One of the most well known studies on the effects of air pollution on the body is the 16-year Harvard University "Six Cities" study, undertaken in 1974-1992, which positively associated PM-10 exposure with death from lung cancer and cardiopulmonary disease.

Notably, the concentrations of inhalable particles (PM-10) in the six US cities studied were

DIRTY/ A20

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TUESDAY, JUNE 26 912-8983

Fake cop dupes real cops with sob story

By PHILIP C. TUBEZA

ROBERT R. LAZO could have gotten away with conning veteran Quezon City police officers of their hard-earned cash if he had controlled his greed.

Not content with the P27,000 he got from his first police victim on Friday, Lazo, who posed as a police superintendent, returned to the Batasan Hills precinct the next day and tried to collect P31,700 more.

He was busted.

Lazo, 39, of Block 9 Lot 13, Taguig Village, Western Bicutan, Taguig, is now detained in the Batasan Hills station, said Senior Supt. Rodolfo Tor, Central Police District director.

Lazo's tale of deception started Friday morning when he went to a canteen beside the Batasan Hills station where policemen hang out.

Wearing civilian clothes, he introduced himself as Senior Supt. Robert Lazo of the interior department's Task Force Jericho and sat down with the men, Tor said. Lazo said he was a member of the Philippine Military Academy Class '83 and a relative of former Batasan Hills police chief Supt. Jolly B. Dizon.

He then told them of the alleged tragedy that had befallen his family: His three daughters were killed while his wife was in critical condition following a vehicular accident last week.

He then asked the men's help for his wife. He promised the men he would pay back the money they lent him.

Lazo's acting was so convincing that SPO2 Ronilo Dela Paz took the suspect to his

FAKE/ A20

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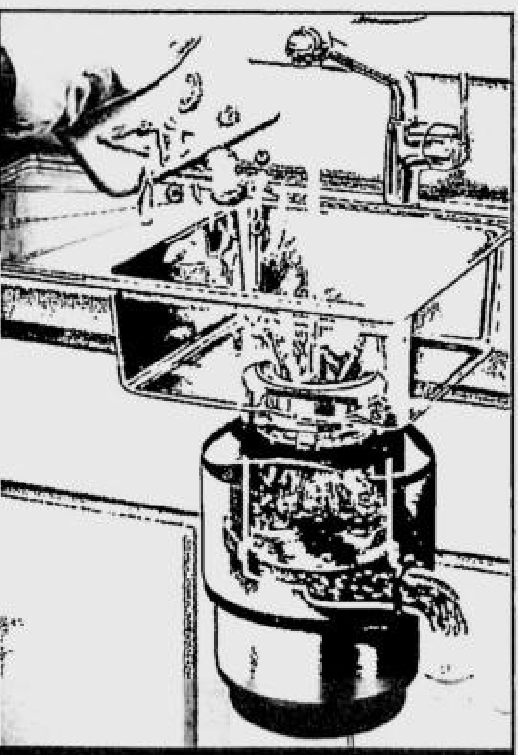

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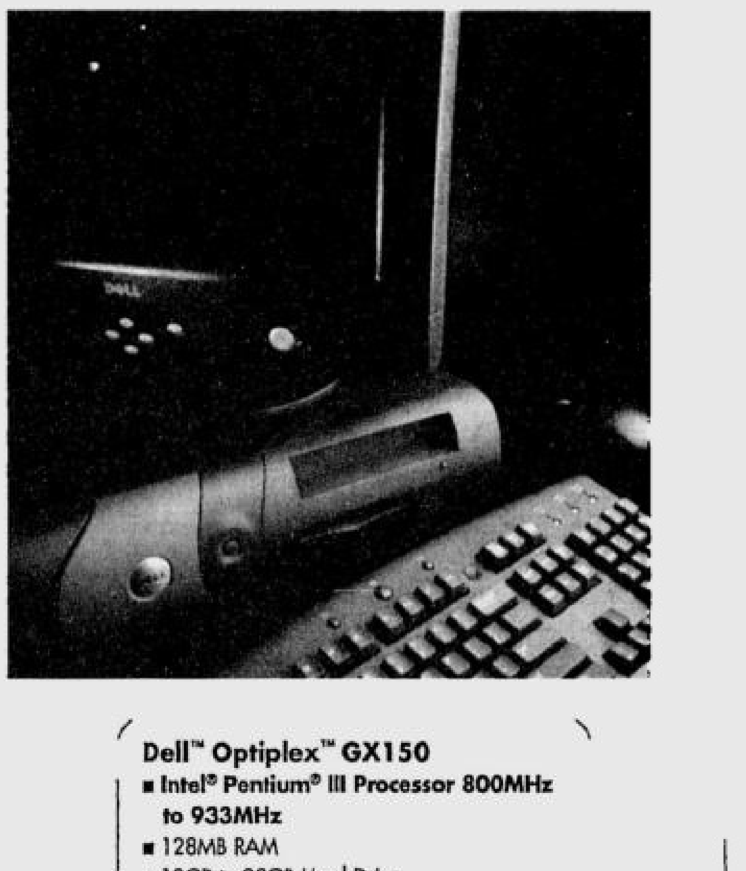

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Police nab 2 rape suspects

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

POLICE on Sunday night arrested two men, one for allegedly raping his 11-year-old daughter in Caloocan City and the other for allegedly abusing a 28-year-old neighbor in Malabon.

One suspect, who is 38, is facing rape charges before the Caloocan city prosecutor's office for allegedly abusing his daughter, a Grade 4 pupil, in their house in Barangay Caybiga about 11 a.m. Saturday, police said.

The daughter immediately complained to her mother, who accompanied her to the Caloocan police station.

About 11 p.m. of the same day, Reynaldo Liwag, 31, a known drug addict in his area, raped his neighbor in her house, according to initial investigation by Malabon police.

The woman said she accepted Liwag's invitation to join him and his companions in a drinking session near her house, police said. After drinking a few glasses of beer, she decided to go home.

As she slept in her room, the very drunk Liwag allegedly sneaked in and raped her at knifepoint, she said.

Wife takes over mate's shabu trade

BY JEROME ANING

A WOMAN who took over her missing husband's alleged drug-peddling business was arrested during a sting operation in Sampaloc, Manila on Sunday afternoon.

Members of the Western Police District apprehended Rowena Lansangan, 31, of 380 Ma. Luisa St., Sampaloc shortly after she handed a sachet of shabu worth P500 to an undercover agent of the WPD district drug enforcement group about 4 p.m. Sunday.

Chief Insp. Jose Mario Espino, DDEG chief, said the sachet contained 0.14 grams of shabu. DDEG agents arranged a transaction with Lansangan over the weekend and used marked money during the deal. Investigators were interrogating Lansangan to find out the source of the illegal substance she was selling.

Lansangan was placed under police surveillance after she was reported to have taken over her husband Jaime's drug peddling business several weeks ago, Espino said.

Police said Jaime, 48, is suspected to be a member of a syndicate distributing shabu in Sampaloc and the University Belt. But he disappeared on Jan. 9. He is believed to have been killed by other members of the syndicate or their rivals.

Lansangan confessed she took over her husband's "business" because their savings were running out and she was afraid their children would go hungry.

She was detained at the WPD-Integrated Jail after being charged with drug pushing at the city prosecutor's office.

Rent problem drives man to suicide

INABILITY to pay the rent on his room for several months drove a pedicab driver to hang himself in Tondo, Manila before dawn yesterday, police said.

Ronaldo Navarro, 30, married, was found by his wife Becky suspended from a beam in their house at 311 Lallana St. in Velasquez, Tondo shortly after Sunday midnight.

SPO3 Victor Miparanum of the city police homicide section said Navarro had been depressed for the past few days because they would soon be ejected for failing to pay P1,200 in rent.

Sunday night, Navarro had a heated argument with the landlady, who had been demanding payment daily.

The wife said Navarro had also tried to end his life in February for the same reason.

Jerome Aning

Robbed, stabbed

POLICE are still trying to identify a wounded man who staggered into a Pasay City hospital, shouted he had been robbed and stabbed, and then collapsed and died yesterday morning.

PO3 Rodolfo Soquina, Pasay City police investigator, said the man was all bloodied when he entered the Manila Sanitarium's emergency room and yelled that he was robbed and stabbed. But before he could give any more details, the man fell to the floor and died.

Soquina said the man was between 30 and 35 years old, of medium build with fair complexion. He was clad in denim pants and a plain white T-shirt.

Pasay police suspect the man was stabbed in Manila because they found no indication the crime was committed in Pasay City. They said subsequent rounds in the vicinity of the hospital yielded nothing that would indicate where the crime was committed.

The victim's remains lie at the Pasay City police station headquarters on F. B. Harrison Street near Libertad Street.

Nelson F. Flores

Man gets 14 years for ₱3 slay

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

A MALABON regional trial court sentenced a 22-year-old man to 14 years in prison for killing a tricycle driver and robbing him of P3 three years ago.

Judge Benjamin Antonio also ordered Aldons Torres to pay the family of victim Abner Panilas P50,000 in damages.

On Oct. 13, 1998, Panilas was sitting in his tricycle that was parked in a terminal on Gen. Luna Street in Malabon when Torres confronted him, court records showed.

Witness Edito Pancho told the court he saw the entire incident since he was only a few meters away from Panilas' tricycle.

He said Torres, armed with a foot-long knife, repeatedly stabbed the hapless Panilas in the abdomen.

Just before he fled, Torres allegedly took P3 from the victim's blood-stained pouch.

Panilas tried to seek help, but he eventually collapsed and died on the pavement, court records showed.

In his defense, Torres claimed he could not have killed Panilas as he was watching television in his house on nearby Liwayway Street when the stabbing happened.

He said that after watching TV, he went straight to his siblings' room and slept.

But Judge Antonio ruled that the accused failed to establish he was in another place when the crime was committed.

The court, however, did not convict Torres on the robbery charge since the prosecution failed to establish his guilt.

Torres has been taken to the National Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa where he will serve out his sentence.

Vigilante groups' formation justified

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

VIGILANTE groups have reportedly resurfaced in Basilan as a result of the Abu Sayyaf's beheading of several hostages who were too poor to pay ransom to the bandit group.

The government looks with disfavor at the formation of the vigilante groups.

You can't blame the law abiding citizens of Basilan for constituting themselves into armed groups in the face of the helplessness of the authorities to protect them. The instinct of self-preservation is very strong in animals; it's even much stronger in human beings.

The government should first show that it is capable of protecting innocent citizens from human predators before it prevents them from forming themselves into vigilantes.

* * *

In the early 1980s in Davao, some law abiding people took the law into their own hands after the government could not protect them against the New People's Army (NPA).

Communist guerrillas were assassinating soldiers and policemen on the streets. They didn't spare innocent citizens whom they suspected of aiding the government.

The vigilante groups formed by the citizens of Davao drove out the NPA, with a little help from the police and the military.

The Davao episode may be repeated in Basilan. Vigilante groups, grown tired of government helplessness, might eventually drive the Abu Sayyaf out of Basilan. They might be able do this with a little—or no—help from the useless military.

* * *

The kidnapping incident in Basilan, which started in Dos Palmas in Palawan, has highlighted once again the division between the rich and the poor in this country.

The rich hostages have been released because they were able to pay ransom to the bandits.

The poor hostages are being beheaded one by one because they cannot afford to pay ransom.

And we thought all along that only the justice system was lopsided in favor of the rich.

* * *

A citizen who apparently knows the ways of the Moros when it comes to hostage situations proposes what this writer has been proposing all along.

Let's hear out Gil Serafin of Pulilan, Bulacan:

"The military must know the stomach of the Abu Sayyaf. (These bandits) are expert in psy war propaganda and would not yield unless they were placed under maximum pressure.

"Therefore, dealing with them should not be through the conventional approach. The approach should be an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.

"If they abducted 20 innocent people from Dos Palmas, (some vigilante groups) should abduct 40 close relatives—children, wives, brothers, sisters, parents—of Abu Sayyaf bandits as bargaining chips. If they beheaded one of the hostages, the vigilantes should behead two relatives of the Abu Sayyaf bandits."

Why not try out Mr. Serafin's approach?

* * *

The Macapagal-Arroyo administration chose wisely in appointing the chair and chief operating officer of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO).

Pagcor's Efraim C. Genuino and PCSO's Virgilio R. Angelo embody the ideals for which the two government institutions exist: helping the poor.

Over dinner recently, Angelo said he feels a twinge of guilt when he hears about a poor person dying of sickness because he could not afford medicines and medical care. The PCSO head, a former bank executive, said that if he could help it, no destitute would die of sickness in his watch at the charitable agency.

I saw Genuino's credentials at the Rotary Club of Makati Central. He was taken in by the club for "his service to the community" and community development. Genuino has a computer school that awards scholarships to poor but bright students.

Angelo, like Genuino, is also a member of the Rotary Club.

* * *

While Interior Secretary Joey Lina wasn't looking, *jueteng* operations have returned, with a vengeance, in Isabela, Pampanga, Angeles City, Bataan and Zambales.

Not that this writer is against the illegal numbers game since it employs thousands of people who would otherwise be jobless. The corruption of local officials and the police is the main problem.

Congress should pass a law legalizing *jueteng*.

* * *

My younger brother Erwin, reporter and program host at ABS-CBN, was a victim of a hit-and-run recently. He nearly died in the accident.

He thinks—and I also think—that it was no accident. He was deliberately bumped by the driver of a 1989 or 1990 Toyota Corolla. Apparently, the driver didn't like the sight of a man riding a big bike.

Erwin, Raffy, another brother, and this writer will greatly appreciate it if somebody will give us information leading to the identification of the driver of that car.

Raffy and I have set aside P100,000 as reward for whoever can point to us the driver of that hit-and-run car. Your identity will be kept secret. That's a promise.

Release of drug suspects probed

BY AGNES E. DONATO

MANDALUYONG City police chief Supt. Jose Gentiles yesterday ordered an investigation of the allegedly anomalous release of three of eight drug users arrested Saturday in a slum in the city.

Gentiles said that one of the released, Danilo Pelaez, 34, had a standing warrant for drug pushing. The two others were identified as Cris Matilan, 29, and Carlito Asuncion, 32.

The mysterious release of Pelaez, Matilan and Asuncion was uncovered after relatives of the five other suspected drug users complained of their continued detention.

Left in jail were Arnold de la Rama, 28; Agripino Enriquez, 40; Allan Leandro, 31; Florencio Tutaan, 48, and Gerardo Cabusog, 32.

They were all arrested allegedly while in the act of sniffing shabu in a slum on Sultan Street at 11:40 p.m. Saturday. Confiscated from them were drug-sniffing paraphernalia and a sachet of shabu.

The arresting team leader, SPO1 Patricio Masilang, of the detective beat patrol team, brought the eight suspects to the Mandaluyong City Medical Center for examination before turning them over to the local drug enforcement unit.

However, only five of the suspects were charged yesterday before the city prosecutor's office, eliciting protests from their relatives.

Pelaez is the subject of a warrant issued last Nov. 17 by Judge Edwin Sorongon of the Mandaluyong City Regional Trial Court Branch 214.

Gentiles directed Chief Insp. Jose Carlito Rayco, head of the local police intelligence and investigation division, to dig deeper into the case and file criminal and administrative charges against police personnel behind the release of the three suspects.

"I will not tolerate any wrongdoing by my men," said Gentiles. "We cannot rid this city of illegal drugs if this incident is not resolved once and for all."

Dirty Metro Manila . . .

(From page A19)

much, much lower than what we are exposed to in Metro Manila.

A March 1995 American Cancer Society study found an association between chronic exposure to fine-particle air pollution and premature death in a study group of more than half a million people in 151 cities.

POLLUTION in Metro Manila is not limited to the air we breathe. Apathy could mean the lives of our children.

Children more susceptible

Children under the age of six are especially vulnerable to the negative effects of air pollution. Because of their physiology, children are much more likely than adults to develop smog-related lung damage.

For their body size, children inhale several times more air than adults, and they breathe faster, particularly during strenuous physical activity.

When children exercise, they tend to breathe through their mouths. Mouth breathing bypasses the natural filtering of air pollutants by the nose and allows large volumes of polluted air to affect the more sensitive areas of children's lungs, which are still developing. Children spend more time outdoors than any other segment of the population.

Research findings also suggest that, even if children do not show symptoms while exercising in unhealthful air, they are likely to suffer a loss in lung function compared to youngsters who grow up where the air is less polluted.

Dirty buses

Apprehension levels for smoke-belching vehicles are very poor. While a "100 percent increase" in monthly apprehensions for smoke-belching has been recently claimed by the MMDA, from about 900 to 1,800 apprehensions a month, this means that only 30 to 60 vehicles are apprehended each day out of the 2.5 million to 3 million vehicles on Metro Manila's roads.

The net effect on air pollution levels is negligible at best.

For buses, the reported apprehension rate is about 18 per day on average. Out of the more than 5,000 buses plying Metro Manila's roads each day, the apprehension rate is perhaps only one out of every 300 buses.

The incentives that have been put in place to enable bus company operators to import run-down, discarded buses from neighboring Asian countries must be addressed if the problem is to be resolved. These heavy polluters must be removed from the city's roads if air quality is to improve.

Saving our city

The population of Metro Manila has rapidly grown over the past three decades and now stands at 12 million, with some 12,600 people crammed into each square kilometer. Thousands live in the shadow of power stations or industrial plants, while efforts to shut down the heavily polluting plants is delayed or put off once again.

How do we tackle the massive problem of air pollution? The first step is increased awareness of the seriousness of the problem on the part of government, citizens and industry, coupled with a dramatic plan of action. The Clean Air Act, which was signed into law in June 1999 and became effective in November 2000, offers some degree of hope, but only if its more than 50 provisions are seriously implemented.

The government, however, has acknowledged it lacks the technical, financial and human resources to fully implement the provisions. Without question, the problem cannot be solved by government alone.

Partnership

Another movement is underway. On June 8 2001, the Partnership for Clean Air was launched, an alliance of multi-sectoral organizations which aims to increase air quality awareness in Metro Manila through a coordinated effort, and push for the implementation of the Clean Air Act's most urgent provisions. The Partnership will run a metro-wide campaign from this year to 2003.

The Partnership has identified the reduction of vehicle smoke emissions as high priority, and will focus on communicating negative health impacts, technological options available for vehicles to prevent smoke belching, and the government's commitment to fully enforce emission standards.

While it is still inviting more members, the Partnership is now composed of the DENR, Petroleum Institute of the Philippines (PIP), Transport Organizations for Clean Air (Toca), Citizens' Coalition Against Pollution (Cocap), Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas (KBP), Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), Association of Accredited Advertising Agencies (4As), Bantay Kalikasan, USAID, US-Asia Environmental Partnership (US-AEP) and the ADB.

What can you do?

● Test and tune up you car. There are private institutions that have the equipment for vehicle emission testing such as the Ateneo de Manila University and the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP). The Ateneo facilities require only a P50 fee. If the company you belong to is a member of the PBSP, ask your management to avail of the emission testing facilities of the PBSP. Consider getting rid of your vehicle if it uses diesel and switching to one that uses unleaded gas instead. Use car pools and mass transit as much as possible.

● Stay informed. Read up on the air quality issue and search the web. Visit www.hangin.org. Hangin.org was created in early 2000 to serve as a medium for public consultation on the drafting of the implementing rules and regulation of the Clean Air Act.

● Organize locally. Raise the issue of air quality and pollution and place it on the agenda in community meetings in your village and barangay, in civic organization gatherings, at your workplace or in your school, and in your church. Individually and in groups, you can take steps to reduce local sources of air pollution, file complaints against erring companies and vehicles, and address illegal garbage burning in your communities. Know your rights to cleaner air and avail of free legal advice through the volunteer lawyers at the www.hangin.org web site.

● Protect yourself and your family. Avoid excessive exposure to air pollution if possible, with special attention to young children who are especially vulnerable. HEPA air cleaners used in the home and workplace can remove a significant level of soot and dust particulates, but unfortunately they are expensive. There are also air cleaners for the car that improve to some degree the air you breathe in your car. Get out of town when possible. Test yourself and your family for the health effects.

● Know your rights. Become familiar with your rights to cleaner air and avail of free legal advice through the volunteer lawyers at the www.hangin.org web site.

Ordinary citizens of Metro Manila must refuse to accept the worsening air pollution as an inevitable take-it-or-leave-it proposal of city living. Without action, our urban environment and our collective health will continue to deteriorate.

Our own apathy will make sure that we, and our children, pay for it dearly.

CHEd backs optional ROTC

(From page A19)

ROTC, so this is really just disturbing those who are in enrolled in a four-year course," Perez said.

The CHEd has already signed an agreement with the DND and the Department of Interior and Local Government supporting the "voluntary" military training in school in 1997, which had become the basis for the bill.

The bill, however, failed to take off in both the Senate and the House of Representatives for lack of a compelling reason to amend the law.

The CHEd proposal would also allow private schools to totally scrap ROTC from the curriculum, but state universities and colleges would still be required to have military training, with the option of doing civic welfare and law enforcement service for one year as a substitute.

"We proposed that those who would like to undergo military training should do it outside and not inside the school because that would be tantamount to militarization," Perez said.

CHEd officials expressed confidence that the bill would gain ground in the 12th Congress because the DND has been making statements favorable to the abolition of ROTC.

A student of the University of Santo Tomas was killed early this year allegedly for exposing irregularities in the Catholic school's military training, which tends toward the physical abuse of students.(See related story, Page A19)

Fake cop dupes real

(From page A19)

house in Marikina and gave him P27,000.

Lazo went back to the Batasan Hills station and collected P31,700 more from other gullible lawmen, police said. But before he could escape, some of the policemen called the CPD headquarters in Camp Karingal, Sikatuna Village, Quezon City and asked about Lazo.

To their surprise and embarrassment, they learned that Lazo's name was not on the CPD roster. When they later checked the centennial yearbook of PMA Class '83, their worst fears were confirmed: Lazo's name was nowhere to be found.

Police later found out that Lazo's PNP ID card was fake and his gun was paltik (homemade), Tor said.

Police are preparing charges of swindling, usurpation of authority and illegal possession of firearms against Lazo, Tor added.

'Don't let my son's . . .

(From page A19)

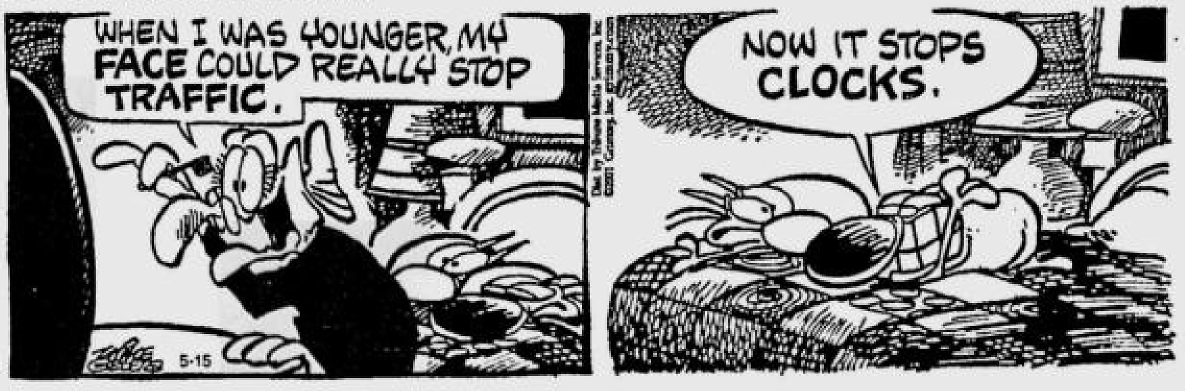
be misfits like those who murdered his son, he stressed that good men dominate the uniformed service, which lives by the motto of courage, integrity and loyalty.

Which is why these men, like the Army officers who supported the Chua family in its quest for justice, must be protected and rewarded, Chua said.

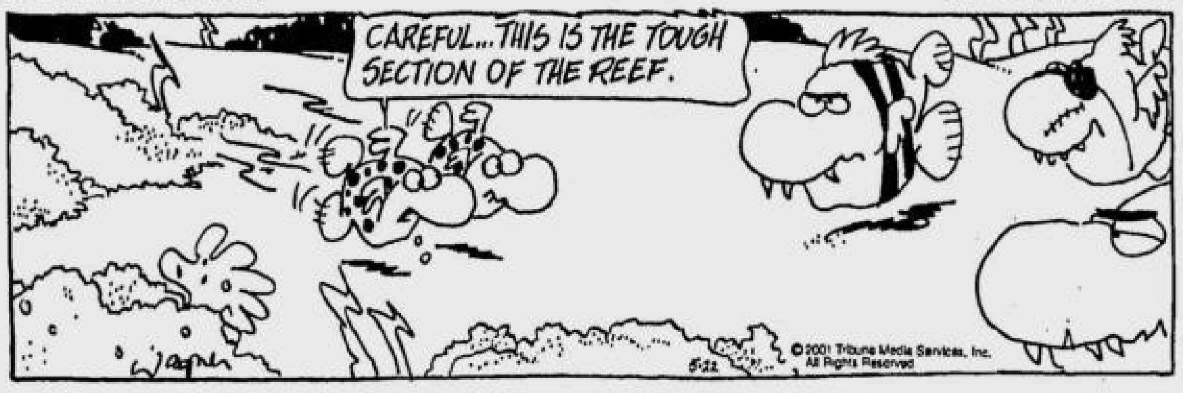
But he opposed the abolition of the ROTC despite calls for it, which resulted from Mark's murder. He noted that the institution has not outlived its purpose but he stressed that it must be reformed.

"The better way, the harder way, Mark's way, is to reform it," Chua said.

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS


WHEN I WAS YOUNGER, MY FACE COULD REALLY STOP TRAFFIC.
NOW IT STOPS CLOCKS.
5-15

ANIMAL CRACKER BY FRED WAGNER


CAREFUL...THIS IS THE TOUGH SECTION OF THE REEF.
5-22
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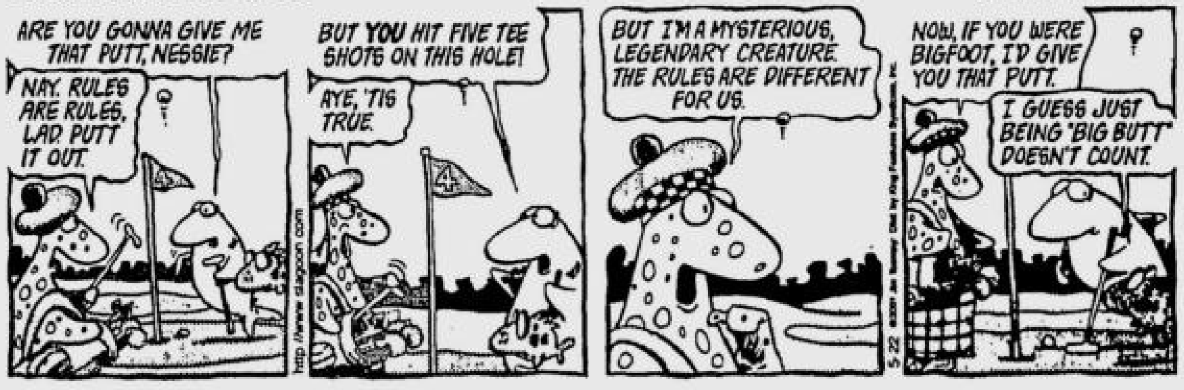
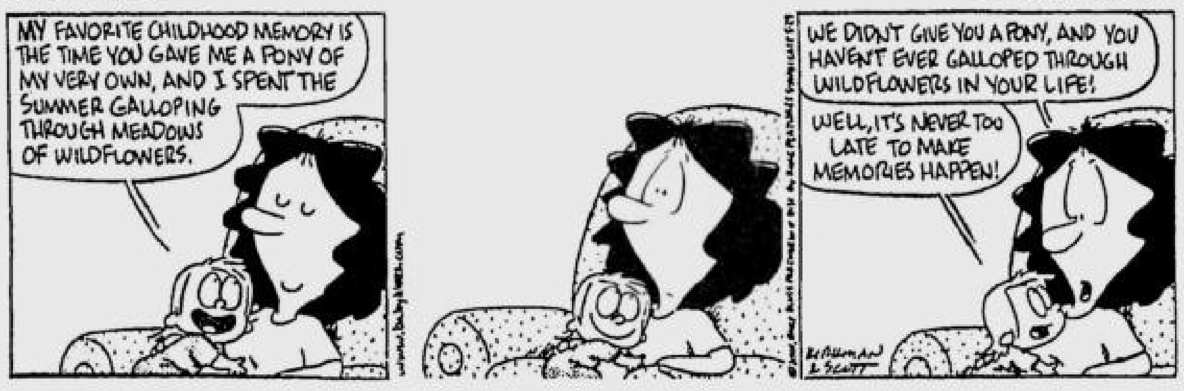
SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY


ARE YOU GONNA GIVE ME THAT PUTT, NESSIE?
NAY. RULES ARE RULES, LAD. PUTT IT OUT.
BUT YOU HIT FIVE TEE SHOTS ON THIS HOLE!
AYE, 'TIS TRUE.
BUT I'M A MYSTERIOUS, LEGENDARY CREATURE. THE RULES ARE DIFFERENT FOR US.
NOW, IF YOU WERE BIGFOOT, I'D GIVE YOU THAT PUTT.
I GUESS JUST BEING 'BIG BUTT' DOESN'T COUNT.
http://www.slagoon.com
5-22

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


MY FAVORITE CHILDHOOD MEMORY IS THE TIME YOU GAVE ME A PONY OF MY VERY OWN, AND I SPENT THE SUMMER GALLOPING THROUGH MEADOWS OF WILDFLOWERS.
WE DIDN'T GIVE YOU A PONY, AND YOU HAVEN'T EVER GALLOPED THROUGH WILDFLOWERS IN YOUR LIFE!
WELL, IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO MAKE MEMORIES HAPPEN!
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Pearl S. Buck, Peter Lorre, Colin Wilson, Sean Hayes, Chris O'Donnell, Derek Jeter

Happy Birthday: It's time to move into prosperity. Luck is finally coming your way. You have a great memory and are eager to be successful. If you set your priorities and keep your circle of friends, you won't have anything to worry about. Your numbers: 21, 24, 32, 35, 43, 46

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Someone you work with may be trying to make you look bad. Just stick to your job, and you will come out on top. You may have to deal with institutions. Be sure to have your facts and papers in proper order.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Get out and fight for your cause. You need to feel that you've helped someone to feel satisfied. You will enjoy the company of those with the same views.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't let anyone twist your arm. You need to make your own decisions even if they may appear to be somewhat bizarre. Curtailed freedom will be the reason you leave.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You need to interact with people from all walks of life to feel fulfilled. Introduce yourself to those who may be able to inspire you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You will be emotional regarding money matters. Don't expect to get back money you lent. It is wise to invest in conservative, long-term portfolios.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You will want to play both ends against the middle. Your emotional partner is probably fed up with your ways. Try to be honest.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You may be fantasizing about someone you work with, but you had better keep those thoughts to yourself. Use your intuition when dealing with peers. You need to stay ahead of everyone else if you really want to make progress.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You can win favors if you talk about some of your unique ideas. Changes in your home will be positive. Property investments will pay off.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Put yourself into your work. You will have personal problems if you have idle time. Keep busy and refuse to discuss any matters with your mate that could lead to a potential dispute.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You're in the mood to snuggle up and enjoy the one you love. Prepare a great meal. After all, that's the way to your mate's heart.

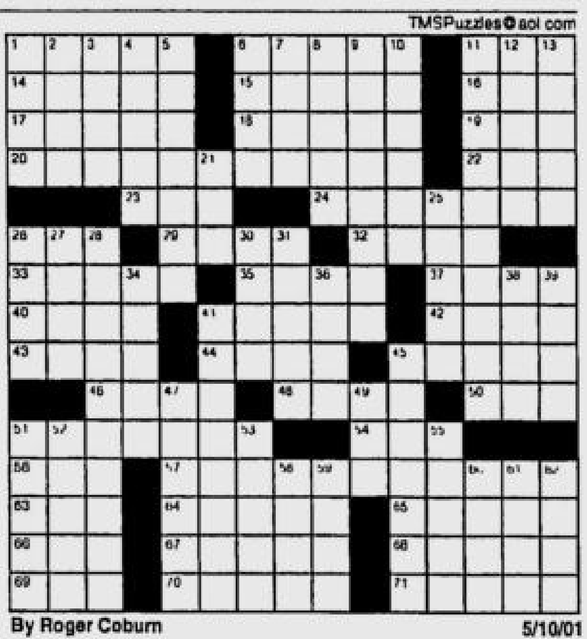
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will have to bend a little to take care of small but important details for someone you care about. Don't let minor health problems get any worse. Visit your physician.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You will be emotionally raring to go, passionate, giving and eager to please. Don't wait; tell your mate how you feel and make plans for your future together.

Birthday Baby: You are charming, bright and willing to do whatever is necessary to help others. Your quick wit and expansive interests will enable you to accomplish a lot throughout your life.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Roger Coburn
Summerville, GA

5/10/01

ACROSS
1 Four-bagger
6 Stockholm man
11 Orange seed
14 Type of daisy
15 Crude dwelling
16 Period
17 Peruses
18 Writer Jong
19 Brown shade
20 Buffalo Bill's sharpshooter
22 Finish
23 Jug handle
24 Spanish wine drink
26 Healing waters
29 Golf-bag items
32 Individuality
33 Bull's defense
35 Identical
37 Sty comment
40 Palo __, CA
41 Manhandled
42 Burnsian hillside
43 Jolly laugh
44 Destroy
45 "__ Davis Eyes"
46 Reverse an action
48 Naked
50 Bound
51 "__ of Laredo"
54 Back of the bus.
56 Earl Grey or hyson
57 "I've Got a Secret" panelist
63 Blockhead
64 Quick on one's feet
65 Superman in movies
66 Final degree
67 Mortise partner
68 Facilitated
69 Indigo or woad
70 Sen. __ Kefauver
71 Laurel and Musial

DOWN
1 Israeli dance
2 Beasts of burden
3 Malicious
4 Gorme of song
5 Ushers after the interval
6 George Beverly or John
7 Function
8 Bad deeds
9 Dead
10 Comic Boosler
11 "Tess" star
12 Shiraz resident
13 Bearlike mammal
21 Bauxite or pyrite
25 Earth model
26 Persian ruler
27 Italian explorer Marco
28 1968 U.S. Open tennis champion
30 Jacob's twin
31 Greeted and escorted
34 Peter of Herman's Hermits
36 Computer options list
38 Eur. defense assn.
39 Maintain
41 Apprentices
45 City on the Ganges
47 Campaign challenge
49 Chip scoopful
51 Group of trees
52 Peevish
53 Be frugal
55 Shoe grip
58 Gin flavoring
59 Hankerings
60 Tableland
61 All tied up
62 Cincinnati team

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

S	T	O	V	E	■	H	A	R	M	■	A	V	O	N
C	O	R	E	S	■	A	R	I	A	■	P	E	S	O
A	G	E	N	T	■	Y	I	P	S	■	P	L	A	T
B	A	L	D	E	R	D	A	S	H	■	L	U	K	E
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T	S	E	T	S	E	■	N	U	D	E	S	■	■	■
E	U	R	O	■	L	E	E	K	■	F	A	M	E	D
D	I	M	M	E	S	T	■	E	S	T	U	A	R	Y
S	T	A	F	F	■	R	E	S	T	■	C	A	S	A
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S	T	A	Y	■	S	A	S	S	■	E	L	O	P	E

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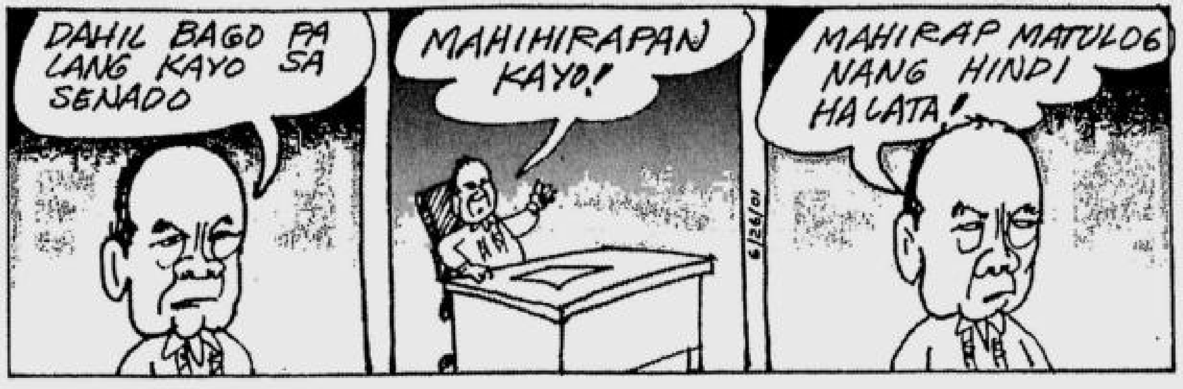
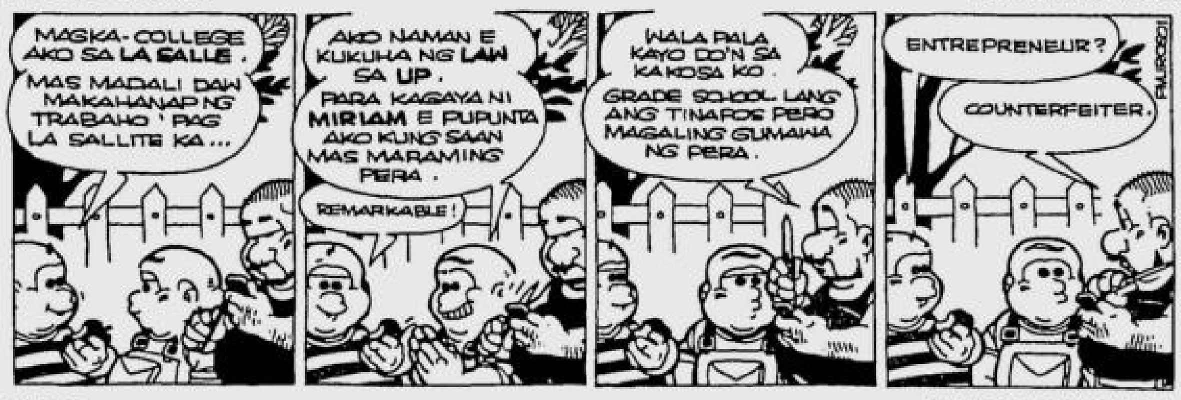
5/10/01

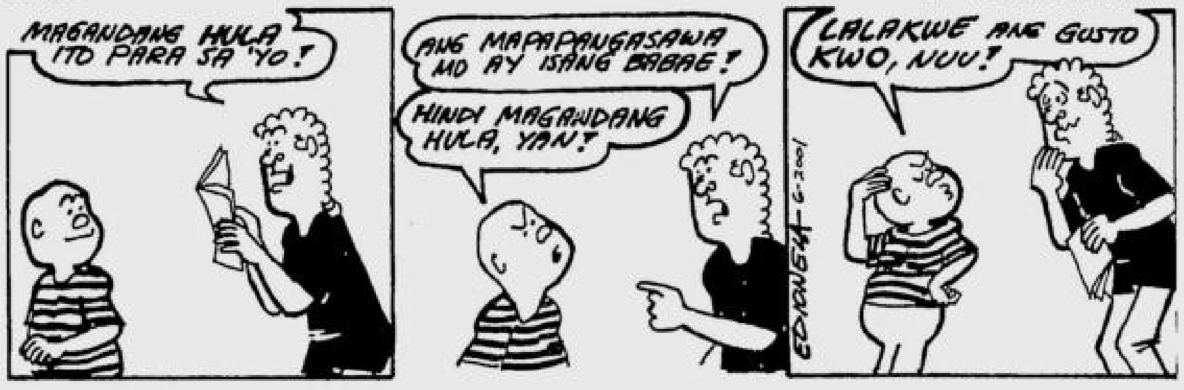
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


DAHIL BAGO PA LANG KAYO SA SENADO
MAHIHIRAPAN KAYO!
MAHIRAP MATULOG NANG HINDI HALATA!
6/26/01

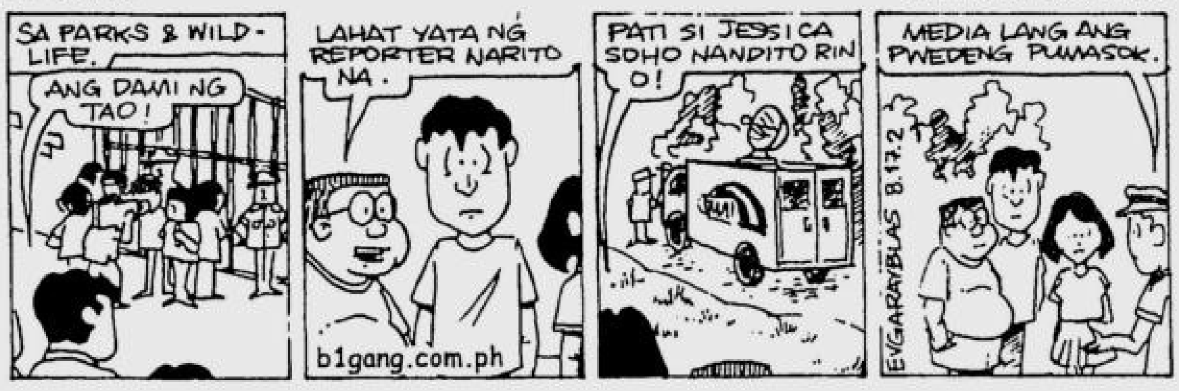
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


MAGKA-COLLEGE AKO SA LA SALLE.
MAS MADALI DAW MAKAHANAP NG TRABAHO 'PAG LA SALLITE KA...
AKO NAMAN E KUKUHA NG LAW SA UP.
PARA KAGAYA NI MIRIAM E PUPUNTA AKO KUNG SAAN MAS MARAMING PERA.
REMARKABLE!
WALA PALA KAYO DO'N SA KAKOSA KO.
GRADE SCHOOL LANG ANG TINAPOS PERO MAGALING GUMAWA NG PERA.
ENTREPRENEUR?
COUNTERFEITER.

SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA


MAGANDANG HULA ITO PARA SA 'YO!
ANG MAPAPANGASAWA MO AY ISANG BABAE!
HINDI MAGANDANG HULA, YAN!
LALAKWE ANG GUSTO KWO, NUU!
EDIONELA 6-2001

B1 GANG BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG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LAHAT YATA NG REPORTER NARITO NA.
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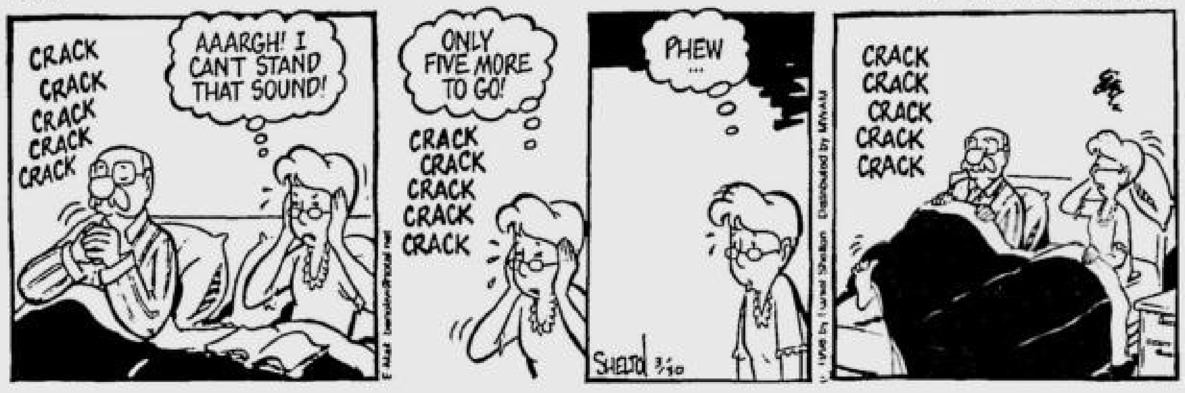
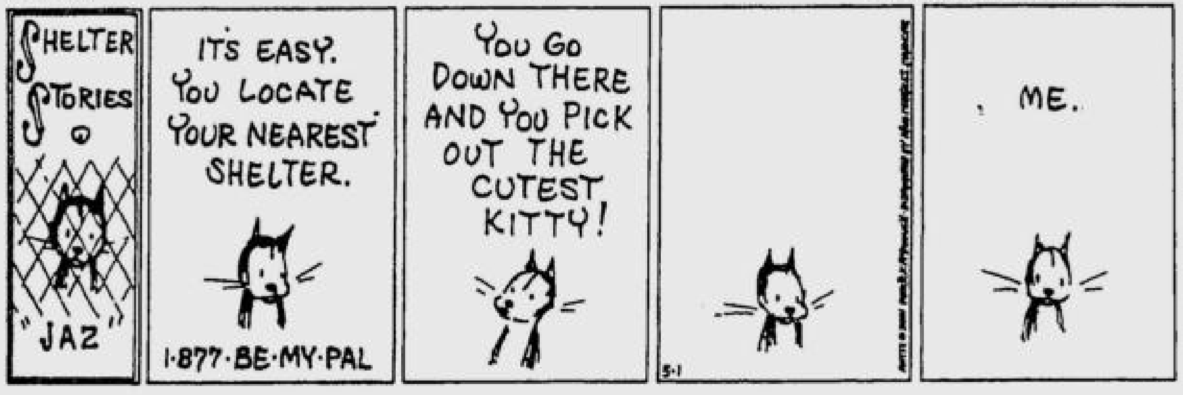
PATI SI JESSICA SOHO NANDITO RIN O!
MEDIA LANG ANG PWEDENG PUMASOK.
EVGARAYBLAS 8.17.2

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


CRACK CRACK CRACK CRACK CRACK
AAARGH! I CAN'T STAND THAT SOUND!
ONLY FIVE MORE TO GO!
CRACK CRACK CRACK CRACK CRACK
PHEW ...
SHELTON 3/10
CRACK CRACK CRACK CRACK CRACK

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL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YOU GO DOWN THERE AND YOU PICK OUT THE CUTEST KITTY!
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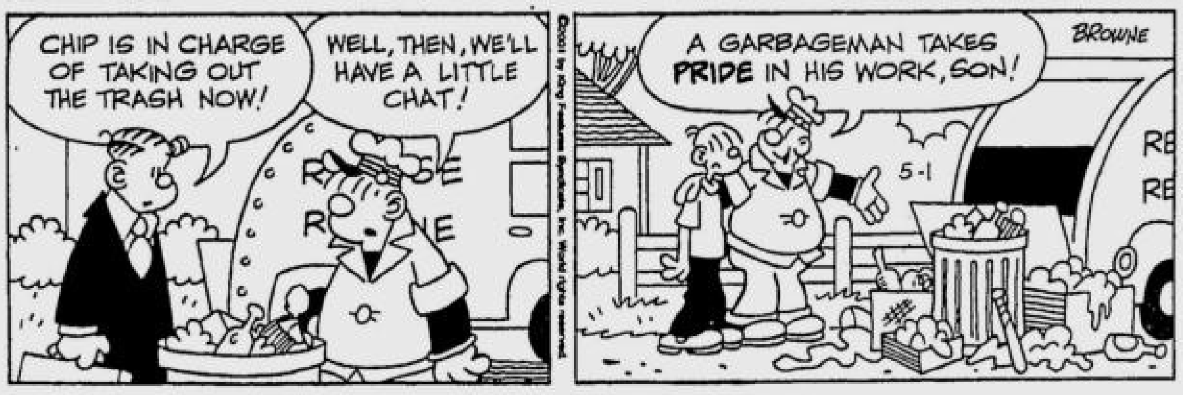
ME.

HI AND LOIS BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


CHIP IS IN CHARGE OF TAKING OUT THE TRASH NOW!
WELL, THEN, WE'LL HAVE A LITTLE CHAT!
A GARBAGEMAN TAKES PRIDE IN HIS WORK, SON!
BROWNE
5-1
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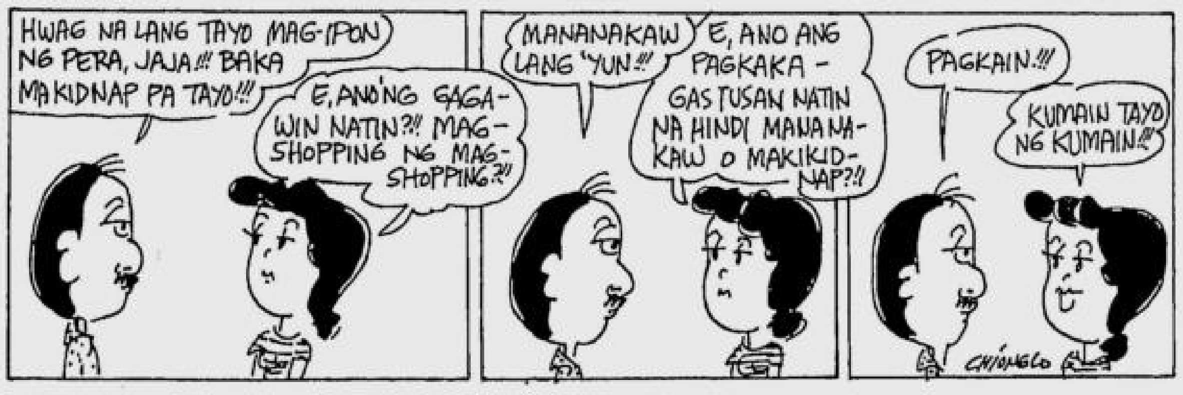
LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


HWAG NA LANG TAYO MAG-IPON NG PERA, JAJA!!! BAKA MAKIDNAP PA TAYO!!!
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PAGKAIN!!!
KUMAIN TAYO NG KUMAIN!!!
CHIONGLO

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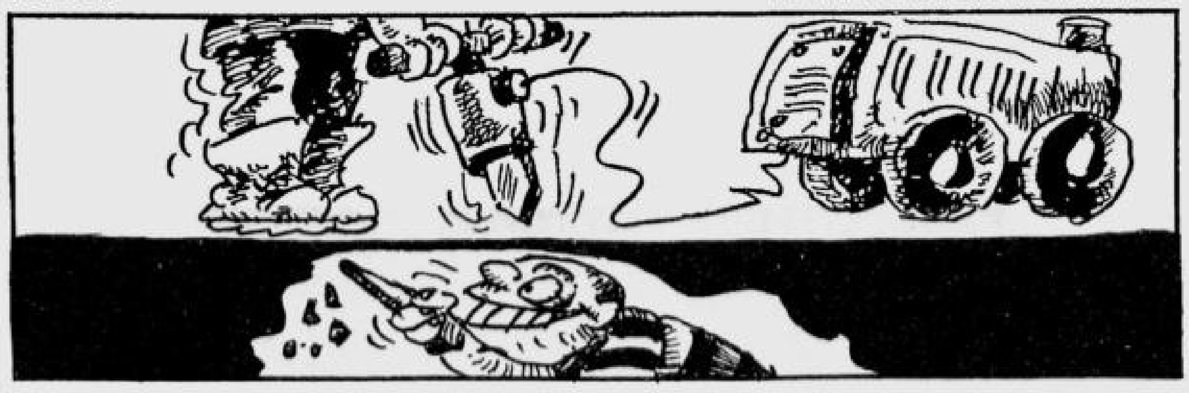

CORY QUIRINO

'If you have love and confidence, it will show in your body'

Q&A

AFTER eight years and a Catholic Mass Media Award, "Citiline" went off the air, but its host, Cory Quirino, did not. The TV host and fitness expert is still very much on television, still hosting a regular show, and still barely showing any sign that the years are going by.

How does the new show differ from "Citiline?"

It's still a one-hour show. The new producers said they didn't mind producing "Citiline," but they wanted it to be "Taglish."

The treatment is different. It has a faster pace and the format has evolved. We're targeting housewives. We have a cooking portion. We cook with the chefs of popular restaurants who share their secrets.

We have segments on food, fitness or wellness. This is more *masa*, more accessible and reachable. The Cory you see there is more down to earth. I also wear more casual clothes.

The show has a segment called C-Q & A. We focus on success stories and my close-up interviews with celebrities. I interviewed Dina Bonnevie and I brought out her spiritual side that few people know about. She talked about her near-death experience and how it made her more spiritual.

I also went to San Pablo, Laguna, and featured James Cooper's house. He also talked about makeup tips.

Don't you have a hard time with a Tagalog script?

I don't work with a script. It's like "Citiline," where we never had a script. I wanted it to be spontaneous. But "Citiline" was in English.

Fortunately, I have a very good chemistry with my director, Pinggoy Generoso. He also directed "Citiline" on Studio 23.

The whole point of the new show is life is really great. Stop looking at the negative. Let's approach life with a positive attitude. When you give out positive energy, you will also get back graces in life.

You don't eat meat?

Sixteen years. I've avoided red meat and pork for health reasons. Since I was five years old, I just couldn't eat the steak that dad wanted me to eat. I don't know but I developed an aversion to it. I'm happy. So when I read about mad cow disease or foot-and-mouth, I am not affected.

Do you always go out fully made up?

I prefer to be without makeup, but my director always scolds me that I'm always under-made-up for TV. There are some women who can get away with very little makeup and when they face the camera, they still look good. But I look very pale without makeup, so I have to darken my powder or foundation.

How long have you been on TV?

Eight years of "Citiline," two years of newscasting for IBC 13. Two years of "Hotline sa 13," with Erap, the first of the crime shows.

What's the best part of those 12 years?

How I evolved as a TV host. My first job was a segment host for Johnny Litton in "Oh No, It's Johnny." I hosted the segment on civic clubs and I remember, during my first shoot, my executive producer said, "Don't be so nervous, Cory. Just look at the camera and pretend it's your friend."

I never forgot that advice and as I look back, I realized I've learned so much. I pat myself on the shoulder and say, "You've come a long way." That's the most gratifying part. There's always something to improve even as you get better.

Do you have a role model in hosting or broadcasting?

I like Mel Tiangco very much. I like her style. Now, I'm not challenged anymore by the all-English shows. I'm evolving again. I'm remaking myself. You get bored with yourself, too. I have to challenge myself all the time.

What do you do when you get bored?

I constantly want the challenge and excitement of life. Like this year, I want to finish two books. My first love is writing. My first book was "Waiting for the Light" about my kidnapping experience.

What drives you?

Everything. Love, work, even playtime, or when I talk. I don't believe a half-hearted approach to anything. I have to give it my all.

Are you ambitious?

I am. Only because after I've reached one ambition, I want to move on to the next. I don't want to stop where I am. I want to keep on moving.

How come you're not inclined toward politics?

It's in my blood. I cannot deny it. I served so many years with the Rotary. I think I've been trained by the Rotary to serve. If the right doors open, I will consider the option. But I won't lose sleep if I don't ever become a politician.

SOUL WOMAN. Vanity, in moderation, is good.

Have there been setbacks? The kidnapping incident?

That was the most traumatic experience in my life. It was a life-changing experience. One of the greatest difficulties in my life was when my father passed away in 1986. At that time, I was public relations director of the Hyatt Hotel, then owned by GSIS. My brother and sister lived in the States, so I was the only child here in Manila. That was a difficult time.

Losing a parent, I found out, was also liberating. Not that I was happy about losing my dad. Of course I was mourning. But I didn't expect it to be a threat to your psyche. Suddenly, the umbilical cord was cut and you were totally on your own. You couldn't run to daddy anymore. It was very challenging. I felt good that I was able to survive that.

How long did it take before you were finally on your own?

The day I got separated.

Which came first?

Two years apart. The separation came first. I was never married here. I was married in Hong Kong. So legally, I'm still single here. I can walk into city hall anytime and get married if I want to. No legal impediment.

Did you dream of being on TV when you were younger?

My first dream was to become a nun at 16. But Mother Luz of Assumption, all of 4'11", told me, "No, you should not become a nun. You're still too young. Come back to me after three years." I never went back.

I took up Communication Arts at Maryknoll. Then I left for Spain. I decided after that I wanted to become a painter like Manansala. But I wasn't even a year in Madrid when my father pulled me out. He told me to come home.

Were you a daddy's girl?

Actually, no. But my dad was very possessive with me because I am the eldest girl. I couldn't even walk to the park in Urdaneta Village, which was just a two-minute walk from our house, without chaperones or my brothers. My dad was very strict.

What was the biggest lesson your dad taught you?

He said that the integrity of your name is priceless. That was handed down from my grandfather and I never forgot that.

What trait did you get from your dad?

His honesty. Thank God, I didn't inherit his love for partying or socializing. I'm not a party girl.

What time are you usually home?

Before midnight, I have to be in bed, for health and beauty reasons. I'm a morning person. I wake up by 7 a.m. I'm not like those who can sleep at 5 a.m. and then wake up at noon.

I only did that before when I used

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'If you have love and confidence, it will show in your body'

(From A22)

to tape with Erap our "Hotline sa Trese" show. If our call time was 9 p.m. in the studio, we'd end up taping at midnight and I'd get home by sunrise. So I would sleep until noon. For two years, I did that.

There was a time when you were reportedly going to run for public office?

Two national elections already, but I pulled out my name. They expected me to run. Erap also asked me to run when he first ran for president and he slid to vice president. But I declined.

What's stopping you?

Timing. I have to follow my momentum. I guess I'm one of those who have to hear an inner voice tell me, "Now is the time." I want to be guided. It's not blind ambition that I follow. It's enlightened ambition. It has to be true to my nature and my timing. If it's not meant to be, I won't force the issue.

Describe yourself in three words.

Passionate, compassionate, overworked. I'm a slave-driver. I expect people to put in as much time and commitment as I would. In a sense, I'm very demanding and I cannot understand if someone cannot put in as much into his work as I would. I believe in leadership by example. I will not ask someone to do it if I can do it myself.

What's the hardest part of your job?

There's nothing hard about my work. I enjoy it.

What do you like least of all?

Travelling and moving around too much. My dream is really to do a live show on TV, like Oprah (Winfrey). I hope I can find a network that will get me because it will be too expensive to produce the show as a blocktimer. I also want to do more books.

What was the best thing you did in "Citiline?"

The show went to France in Italy and we did six episodes in 10 days. The crew enjoyed it a lot because most of them had never traveled to Europe. It was their first time. We were invited by Imedeen.

Weren't you the image model of Imedeen?

Yes, and I tell you it works.

How was the trip?

I told my director I only agreed to go to that European trip with a sponsor because part of the itinerary was to go to Turin, and I wanted so much to see the shroud.

What did you feel when you saw the shroud?

They only bring out the actual shroud on Easter. And even if I only saw a photocopy of the shroud, for me it was a divine moment. They didn't even want us to shoot the shroud but I told the priest, we flew all the way from the Philippines just to see the shroud. And then I told him, "You know how many million Catholics there are in the Philippines? More than there are in Italy." Then he said yes.

Most people still think I'm a party girl, but I'm very spiritual. I hardly go out. I only accept social events for charity, like a benefit fashion show or a beauty contest.

Does being a Quirino go to your head?

No. My parents raised me in a simple, humble way. In fact, they always told me, "Never expect anything because of your name. In fact it will be a liability because people would be negative or closed-minded toward you because they think you're carrying that name like a badge."

I grew up sandwiched by four brothers, so my first toy was not a doll. It was a *tirador* (slingshot) my brother gave me. I used to climb trees and bike around the village with my brothers. My first playmates were boys because I was officially adopted by my brother's friends as a member of their *barkada*. That's why I was tomboyish when I was growing up.

How come you get linked to a number of guys, including (INQUIRER columnist) Ramon Tulfo?

The *chismis* started in Cebu, where I attended the launch of our galleon project. It was a media event and Tulfo was also there. I was with Maryann Salcedo and she told me, "Cory, there's Tulfo." Then I said, "I don't know him." But she said hi to him. Tulfo asked where we were going and we said, "We are going to a convention." Then he said, "Can I be invited?"

Julie Daza, when she was still with People Magazine, did an article about me: "Cory Quirino, the lady who always gets linked to so many men and just laughs it off."

Even Erap was linked to me. Rudy Fernandez and Ping Lacson, too, was linked to me.

How do you handle gossip?

Lightly. I don't bother with it anymore. When people ask me, "Oh, we heard you are being linked to this guy and that guy. . ." I am amused. Who's it going to be this time? My love life is mysterious, that's why they try to link me to men.

What was the worst thing said about you?

That I was carrying on an affair with three men at the same time, with a foreigner and with politicians. I don't know why they love to link me to politicians.

What do you have that you think other women can't beat?

My body. When I walk into a room, I'm already prepared to get the evil eyes from women. I have a natural propensity to turn off women even if I haven't met them. They pre-judge me. But the men are always kind to me. I have no problems with the men. I find that I get along better with very strong and independent women.

There are women who have so much time in their hands, they don't know what to do with the money of their husbands. How many Louis Vuitton bags can you own?

That body was achieved through proper diet, exercise and discipline? No liposuction?

No. That's where Vicky Belo and I really argued when we appeared on "Debate." I'm against it. If you can do it the natural way, try it first so you don't do violence and injury to your body.

But Vicky is my doctor for skin care.

What is the human body to you?

It's really a manifestation or expression of your own self. So you are what you eat, what you think, what you do or how you feel. You see people who are not very physically attractive and yet their unseen qualities make them beautiful. The mind, the heart. That's what's sexy. If you have love and confidence, it will show in your body.

You seem to be a very strong woman. What qualities in men attract you?

At this stage in my life, what would attract me most is a man's sense of purpose in life. That's the stuff that makes a real man.

You don't go for the looks?

I don't look for the Cary Grant type or a Brad Pitt. That's not a turn-on for me. What makes a man attractive is the composition and combination of his mind and heart.

But of course, I cannot be with a man who is not physically fit because I am. So it's got to be someone who will be in harmony with my lifestyle.

You're vain.

Oh yeah. But you have to do everything in moderation, including vanity.

You think vanity is good?

Vanity is also rooted in self-love. If you don't love yourself, there's not enough love to give to others. So what does loving yourself mean? Feeding yourself with nourishing food, respecting your body as the temple of your soul, feeding your mind with material that will enlighten you and broaden your knowledge and being with people who are positive.

I don't want to tolerate people who are negative because they will just take your energy. They are energy vampires.

How do you handle negative people and negative energies?

I meditate a lot. There's a technique in visualization to do that. Sometimes, I can read minds and feel spirits when I walk into a room.

How much time do you devote to peace and quiet?

At least 15 minutes in the morning and another 15 minutes at night. You need it, especially when you're so harassed in your work and you deal with a lot of people.

What do other women have that you'd like to have?

Maybe someday I would like to have an ideal family life—husband and wife under one roof and spiritually connected. The simplest things in life, for me, are the hardest to achieve.

Do you have kids?

I have a daughter. She's 21. She's starting to look like me already, but she's more exotic. She has long, beautiful hair. She graduated from Assumption, Interior Designing. Now she told me she wants to go back to school and take up photo-journalism.

What did she take after you?

I think my spirituality, plus my eating lifestyle. She's very conscious of what she eats. I think I also inspired her fitness lifestyle, although she's more active than I.

What side of Cory Quirino is not seen by those who watch her on TV?

I think my spiritual side. I devote a lot of time to meditation. But people who watch my show know that I am spiritual because I always have a centering portion and, for this new show, a soul portion. I don't want to remove that because it's my mission to share with anyone who will listen that life is always full of hope, as long as you're alive and you're breathing.

Most people don't also know that I'm very dedicated to civic work. I have adopted streetchildren as my own in "Tuloy sa Don Bosco." We have around 300 kids in a satellite center and we're building their permanent home in Alabang. But we still have to raise another P120 million for Father Rocky. We had a fund-raising event recently at The Fort where we were able to raise P6 million. So we are hoping to raise the entire amount so we can house about 1,000 kids.

The concept of Don Bosco is the most comprehensive yet, it can help solve the streetchildren problem in Manila. We offer the children a holistic package. You have a roof over your head, nourishment and then you get religious and educational guidance. Of course, you can graduate with diplomas.

Father Rocky also wants to take it a step further and find jobs for the graduates, so they will not go back to their old life. *Louie C. Camino, Leah Salterio*

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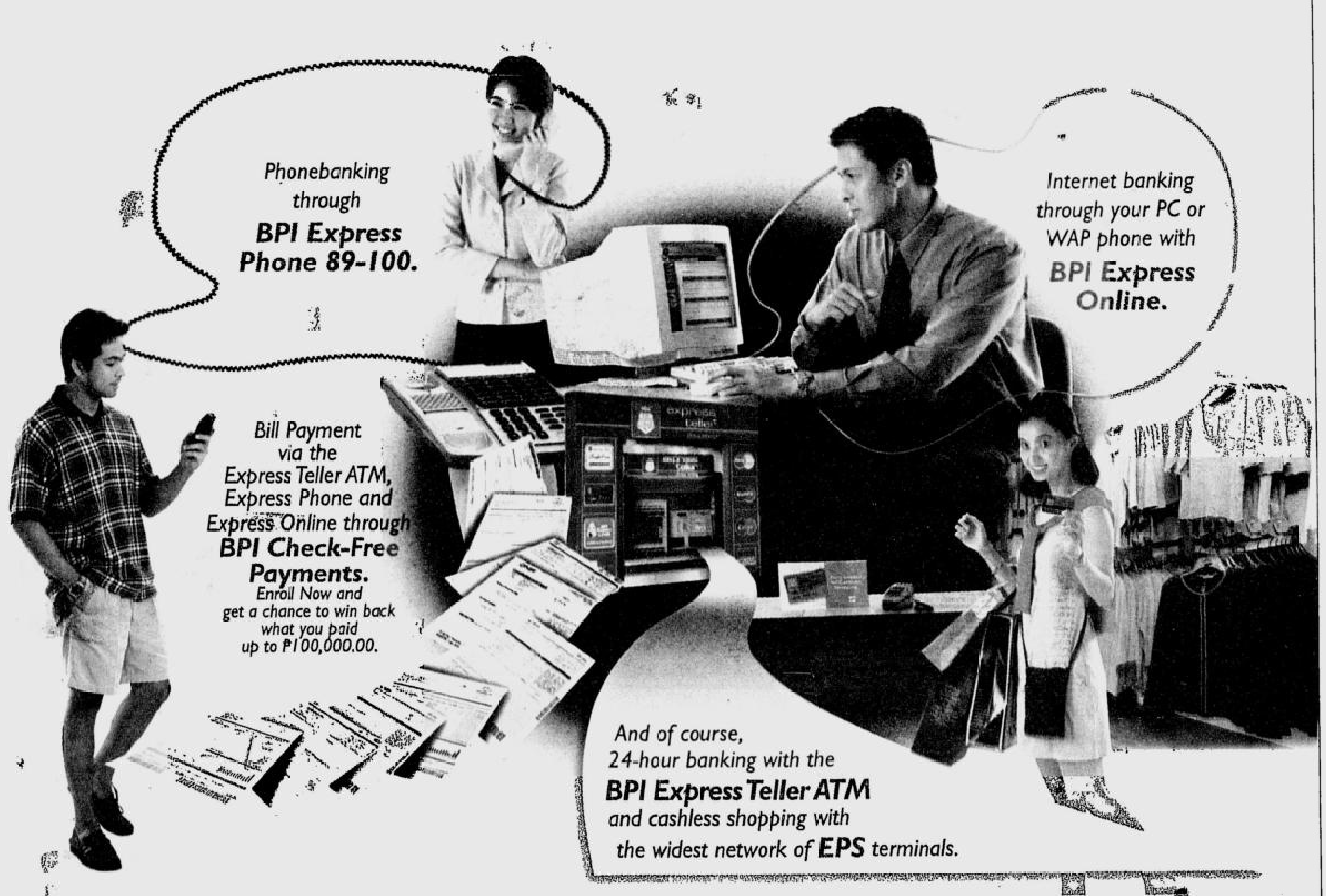
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2 LUV TEXT
3 BUHAY KAMAO
4 ACCIDENTAL SPY

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9205452

1 LUV TEXT
2 HEAD OVER HEELS
3 THE REPLICANT
4 BUHAY KAMAO
5 DR. T & THE WOMEN
6 ACCIDENTAL SPY
7 EVOLUTION
8 PEARL HARBOR
9 MAGENTA
10 EVOLUTION
11 KASIBULAN
12 THE MUMMY RETURNS

SM SOUTHMALL 8066088 • 8066182

1 THE REPLICANT
2 DR. T & THE WOMEN
3 EVOLUTION
4 ACCIDENTAL SPY
5 SPOT
6 HEAD OVER HEELS
7 LUV TEXT
8 PEARL HARBOR
9 BUHAY KAMAO
10 KASIBULAN

SM GUADALUPE COMM'L 8828905

1 BUHAY KAMAO
2 LUV TEXT
3 ACCIDENTAL SPY

SM CEBU 2313816

1 PEARL HARBOR
2 SUGAR & SPICE
3 HEAD OVER HEELS
4 VALENTINE
5 LUV TEXT
6 BUHAY KAMAO
7 THE REPLICANT

SM ILOILO 3209422

1 ANTS IN THE PANTS
2 CLOSED
3 HEAD OVER HEELS
4 PEARL HARBOR
5 ANGEL EYES
6 PEARL HARBOR
7 CLOSED
8 VALENTINE

SM PAMPANGA 7120015

1 PEARL HARBOR
2 EVOLUTION
3 THE REPLICANT
4 SPOT
5 BUHAY KAMAO
6 LUV TEXT

SM SUCAT 8294015

1 ACCIDENTAL SPY
2 PEARL HARBOR
3 EVOLUTION
4 LUV TEXT

SM DAVAO

1
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1 LUV TEXT
2 PEARL HARBOR
3 ACCIDENTAL SPY
4 EVOLUTION

GLORIETTA 4

1 EVOLUTION in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2 ACCIDENTAL SPY in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 PEARL HARBOR THX in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 THE APOSTLE (Phil. Premiere) in DTS DIGITAL SOUND Art Film
5 DR. T & THE WOMEN in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6 GET OVER IT in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7 HEAD OVER HEELS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

1 DR. T & THE WOMEN in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2 EVOLUTION in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3 ACCIDENTAL SPY in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4 MARTIN NIEVERA LIVE June 29 & 30 9PM Onstage

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1 PEARL HARBOR THX in DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2 DR. T & THE WOMEN in DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 EVOLUTION in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 ACCIDENTAL SPY in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5 LUV TEXT in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS) EVOLUTION
2 (SDDS) PEARL HARBOR
3 (DTS) ACCIDENTAL SPY
4 GOLD (DTS) HEAD OVER HEELS
5 GOLD (DOLBY) DR. T & THE WOMEN
6 GOLD (SDDS) PEARL HARBOR
7 GOLD (DOLBY) EVOLUTION
8 ([illegible]) THE REPLICANT
9 ([illegible]) LUV TEXT
10 ([illegible]) BUHAY KAMAO

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1 KASIBULAN
2
3 (DTS)
4 BUHAY KAMAO
5
6 (DTS) PEARL HARBOR
Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3
(Kalaw) tel 536.4315

1 (DOLBY) EVOLUTION
2 (DTS) ACCIDENTAL SPY
3 LUV TEXT

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1 LUV TEXT
2 EVOLUTION
3 ACCIDENTAL SPY

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1 LUV TEXT
2 ACCIDENTAL SPY
3 BUHAY KAMAO
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) EVOLUTION
5 KASIBULAN

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543.4001

1 RESERVE
2 MAGENTA
3 LUV TEXT
4 BUHAY KAMAO
5 PEARL HARBOR
6 EVOLUTION
7 ACCIDENTAL SPY
8 KASIBULAN

LOUIE'S CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2010 / 892.3349

1 EVOLUTION

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 PEARL HARBOR
2 PEARL HARBOR

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
tel 930.9515

1 KASIBULAN
2 PREDATOR
3 LUV TEXT

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1
A

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1 LUV TEXT
2 EVOLUTION
3 KASIBULAN
4 PEARL HARBOR

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY) EVOLUTION
2 RESERVE
3 KASIBULAN
4 BUHAY KAMAO
5 HEAD OVER HEELS
6 LUV TEXT
7 (DTS) DR. T & THE WOMEN
8 (SDDS) ACCIDENTAL SPY
9 (DOLBY) PEARL HARBOR

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2 ACCIDENTAL SPY

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1 BUHAY KAMAO
2 LUV TEXT
3 KASIBULAN
4 (SDDS) EVOLUTION
5 ACCIDENTAL SPY
6 (DOLBY) PEARL HARBOR
7 (DTS) THE REPLICANT
8 THE MUMMY RETURNS
9 MAGENTA

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS) ACCIDENTAL SPY
2 KASIBULAN
3 THE REPLICANT
4 MAGENTA
5 (SDDS) PEARL HARBOR
6 LUV TEXT
7 (DOLBY) EVOLUTION
8 BUHAY KAMAO

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1 LUV TEXT
2 BUHAY KAMAO
3 (DTS) EVOLUTION
4 KASIBULAN
5 (SDDS) ACCIDENTAL SPY

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1 LUV TEXT

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1 LUV TEXT

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson LIVE FLESH
Lords
Jennet KASIBULAN

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 ACCIDENTAL SPY
2 LUV TEXT
3 KASIBULAN
4 EVOLUTION

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

1
3 LUV TEXT

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY) EVOLUTION
2 ACCIDENTAL SPY
3 KASIBULAN
4 LUV TEXT
5 BUHAY KAMAO

New Divisoria Mall
CINEMA tel 244.4619

1 LUV TEXT
2 ACCIDENTAL SPY
3 KASIBULAN
4 BUHAY KAMAO
5 MAGENTA
6 EVOLUTION

Baclaran LRT
CINEMA tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY) LUV TEXT
2 ACCIDENTAL SPY
3 KASIBULAN
4
5

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1 EVOLUTION
2 BUHAY KAMAO
3 (DTS) LUV TEXT

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 EVOLUTION
2 (DTS) HEAD OVER HEELS
3 (DOLBY) PEARL HARBOR
4 LUV TEXT

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS) ACCIDENTAL SPY
2 KASIBULAN
3 LUV TEXT
4 (DTS) EVOLUTION

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545 7202

1 (DOLBY) EVOLUTION
2 LUV TEXT
3 (DTS) HEAD OVER HEELS
4 BUHAY KAMAO
5 LABRADOR

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1 BUHAY KAMAO
2 LUV TEXT
3 EVOLUTION

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1 LUV TEXT
2 EVOLUTION
3 BUHAY KAMAO

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1 THE REPLICANT
2 PEARL HARBOR
3 KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1 EVOLUTION
2 LUV TEXT
3 ANTS IN THE PANTS

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS) LUV TEXT
2 (DTS) BUHAY KAMAO

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1 LUV TEXT

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1 LABRADOR
2 LUV TEXT
3 BUHAY KAMAO

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 PEARL HARBOR
2 BUHAY KAMAO
3 ANTS IN THE PANTS
4 SPOT

Berma
tel 879.2168

1 KASIBULAN
2 LUV TEXT

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1 ACCIDENTAL SPY
2 BUHAY KAMAO
3 LUV TEXT
4 EVOLUTION

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX) PEARL HARBOR
2 LUV TEXT
3 BUHAY KAMAO
4 (DTS ES) THE REPLICANT

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☆ EVOLUTION

GALLERIA 632-9115-16

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☆ ACCIDENTAL SPY
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☆ LUV TEXT
☆ THE MUMMY RETURNS
☆ EVOLUTION

IMUS (046) 471-8188

☆ PEARL HARBOR
☆ ACCIDENTAL SPY
☆ LUV TEXT
☆ EVOLUTION
☆ BUHAY KAMAO
☆ KASIBULAN

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453

☆ PEARL HARBOR
☆ VALENTINE
☆ SUGAR & SPICE
☆ GET OVER IT
☆ ANTS IN THE PANTS
☆ CUTAWAY

DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	BUHAY KAMAO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	LUV TEXT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	ACCIDENTAL SPY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	PEARL HARBOR
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	EVOLUTION
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	DR. T & THE WOMEN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	THE REPLICANT
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	LUV TEXT
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	ACCIDENTAL SPY
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS / BODY SHOCK
ODEON	ACCIDENTAL SPY
ODEON-2	BUHAY KAMAO
ROBEN	KASIBULAN
TANDEM-1	KUNG LILIGAYA KA
TANDEM-2	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
TIMES	3 000 MILES / WHAT WOMEN WANTS
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	KASIBULAN
QUEZON-1	KASIBULAN
REMAR	LUV TEXT
REMAR-2	MAGENTA
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	SPOT
CINEMA-2	EVOLUTION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BUHAY KAMAO
CINEMA-2	KASIBULAN
CINEMA-3	MAGENTA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PEARL HARBOR
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	SPOT
CINEMA-6	THE MUMMY RETURNS
CINEMA-7	LUV TEXT
CINEMA-8	THE REPLICANT
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	PEARL HARBOR
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ACCIDENTAL SPY
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	EVOLUTION
CINEMA-12	HEAD OVER HEELS
CINEMA-14	DR. T & THE WOMEN
CINEMA-15	LUV TEXT
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	HEAD OVER HEELS
CINEMA-2	PEARL HARBOR
CINEMA-3	EVOLUTION
CINEMA-4	DR. T & THE WOMEN
CINEMA-5	ACCIDENTAL SPY
CINEMA-6	EVOLUTION
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	PAY IT FORWARD
CINEMA-2	HIYAS
CINEMA-4	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	PAY IT FORWARD
CINEMA-2	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
CINEMA-4	BUHAY NA MANIKIN

Auditions for rappers, singers

UNA Productions calls on rappers and singers for an opportunity to be given a big break in the Asian entertainment circuit.

Auditions are open to both professional and non-professional rappers and/or singers, male and female, 15 to 21 years old.

Auditions will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 30 at No. 6 Scout Madriñan corner Scout Tobias st., Quezon City.

Bring latest photos (one close-up and one full-body shot) and the necessary minus-one or multiplex tapes.

For information, call 416-8422 or 371-4373.

'Snatch' on video

"SNATCH," Brad Pitt's first blockbuster movie of the year, is now out on home video.

The gangland comedy thriller is a heist story set against London's Jewish diamond district involving a diamond deal, knuckle boxing, colorful gypsy and a dog.

Directed by Guy Ritchie, "Snatch" is distributed by Magnavision Home Video and available on VHS, VCD and DVD formats.

New OPM releases

REMEMBER the names Fred Panopio, Lolita Carbon of Asian, Coritha and Sampaguita?

They invaded the airwaves from the '60s to the early '80s. They made hits that conquered the masses and their music played a great part at the height of political martyrdom and environmental awareness.

Concorde Records releases the hits of these artists in separate albums.

Panopio recorded novelty songs like "Gloria Labandera," "Pitong Gatang" and "Bahay Kubo."

Carbon releases her best tunes which includes her original compositions and duets she did with Freddie Aguilar—"Kamalayan," "Sinisinta Kita," "May Ilaw," "Paraisong Liku-Liko" and "Larawan."

Sampaguita, Lolita and Coritha also joined forces to come out with an album of Aguilar's songs like "Kamusta Ka," "Magdalena" and "Estudyante Blues."

LOUIE'S CINEMA

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NOW SHOWING

EVOLUTION
Adventure • Comedy
(PG-13 R.T.-1:50)
Starring:
David Duchovny
Orlando Jones
Seann William Scott
Julianne Moore

June 26 - Tuesday
6:00 PM - Evolution
8:20 PM - Closed (WRock/LRP Foundation Inc.)
10:40 PM - Evolution

Angelina Jolie stars as LARA CROFT in
TOMB RAIDER
opening June 27

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Boob-tube booboos

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

HOST: Congratulations on winning the beauty contest!

Beauty queen: Thank you! I'm so happy!

Host: What do you think was your edge over the other contestants?

Beauty queen: I think I won only by a strike of luck!

(Strike one!)

* * *

Host: Are you closer to your mother, or to your father?

Guest: Well, actually, I believe, *mas* close *ako sa kanila pareho.*

(Duh . . .)

* * *

Host: Your rags-to-riches story is quite dramatic and inspiring. How did you become a success!

Guest: We were very poor, but I was not ashamed to work hard to earn money for my family, for my school.

Host: What sort of jobs—?

Guest: Anything—even bending on sidewalks.

(Huh?!)

* * *

Host: What do you admire most about your friend, who is celebrating his birthday today?

Guest: He has so many good things about him, but I admire most of all, he's always finding out for the solution affecting him!

(Uh, please repeat?)

* * *

Host: As a father, what do you have to say to your children?

Guest: Sometimes, we may not agree, sometimes we may fight, but one thing sure, *ang* intention *ko* is always for their better.

(Well, it's the thought that counts . . .)

* * *

Host: I hear you just gave birth to a baby girl?

Guest: Yes, we're so happy!

Host: Who does she look like, you or your husband?

Guest: Well, everybody says *kamukhang-kamukha ko siya*, except for her lips and eyes!

(E, di hindi kayo magkamukha!)

* * *

Host: Do you like your leading lady?

Guest: Yes, she's really nice and beautiful!

Host: Have you told her?

Guest: No, I cannot overly showing it to her!

(Over and out!)

* * *

Host: How is your album doing?

Guest: Very well! I'm on top of the road!

(Huh?!)

* * *

Host: Who is your crush in show biz?

Guest: (Names a female starlet.)

Host: What is your biggest wish?

Guest: That I'll get to know her on a one-hand basis!

(What's *that?)*

* * *

Host: I hear your new movie is really different . . .

Guest: It is! People were really enjoying at our premiere showing!

Host: Can you tell us more about it?

Guest: May surprise *ang pelikula namin—pero ikukuwento ko na rin!*

(Akala ko ba, surprise?)

* * *

Host: Is it true that your father got sick recently?

Guest: It's true, he was in the hospital for three weeks.

Host: Oh? I'm sorry to hear that. *Ano ba'ng sakit niya?*

Guest: *Sabi ng mga duktor, yung plema niya, hindi makalabas, kaya naging* biopsy.

(The doctors said *that?!)*

Eric Quizon saddened by industry slowdown

By Remy M. Umerez

LEGAL EAGLE. Eric Quizon plays a manipulative lawyer on "Your Honor."

NOT EVEN a man as talented as Eric Quizon can escape the malaise that has stricken the local movie industry. "It's sad and disappointing," Quizon says of the lassitude gripping local filmdom. "I have submitted film projects and there is no certainty they will ever materialize on the screen."

"It's all about logistics. Production costs have escalated so much that few producers are willing to take the risk. They may like your ideas but will these be converted into profits?"

Eric admits he being dragged down by this upsetting state of affairs, with movie producers tending to cut down on their film outputs due to the economic slump. If conditions worsen, the number of theaters that has closed down may grow.

"I am a producer myself and I understand the financial side, but the artist in me yearns for something else," Quezon says. "I want to go beyond the so-called formula movies."

He admits that these past few months, he has not felt inspired enough to appear in or direct a movie. Not on the big screen anyway.

Files containing projects remain unattended on his desk.

The last movie he appeared in was "Markova, the Comfort Gay," where he was with his dad Dolphy and brother Jeffrey. The movie nearly clinched a grand slam for Jeffrey.

Early this year, Eric went to the United States to visit his mom. That vacation allowed him to recharge his creative batteries. Now, he is busy producing two *telesines* for GMA Network.

He is also in "Your Honor," a legal drama series produced by ABS-CBN and telecast every Monday night, right after "Kung Kaya ni Mister, Kaya ni Misis."

The new series, which seeks to entertain and educate viewers on the fine points of Philippine law, boasts of an all-star cast headed by Richard Gomez, Glydel Mercado, Liza Lorena, Tony Mabesa, Georgina Sandico, Leandro Muñoz and Chinggoy Alonso and introducing L.A. Mumar.

It features the complicated lives and relationships of legal eagles and the surprising cases that come their way.

Quizon portrays the scheming and manipulative Victor Contreras, who uses the law to pursue his political ambitions.

His character competes with his childhood friend Ryan, played by Richard Gomez. The two men compete in the courtroom and even in courtship.

"I have played a lawyer in the past but I can't recall playing one in a courtroom unlike in 'Your Honor,' where the action takes place right in front of the judge," Eric says. "It is hard and tough especially when it involves legal terms which I am not used to."

To acquaint himself with the behavior of lawyers in court, Eric bought a book specifically on that subject. But later he doubted whether he could finish even half of the book, so he rented films on legal dramas and observed how other actors tackled their characters.

Occasionally, he watches "The Practice," which inspired "Your Honor."

"Your Honor" is directed by Joel Lamangan, with Jake Tordesillas as creative manager and Roy Iglesias as head writer. Lawyers Mike Ancheta and Anton Umali act as legal consultants.

Tin-tin Bersola, Cooky Chua have more things in common than Earl Ignacio

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

WHEN we get into a relationship, it's not just our partner we must love but his past as well. Whether we like it or not, he will always have a little of his ex-girlfriend/ex-wife in him.

Bumping into the current paramour of an ex could be quite an awkward situation. It's like being in front of a one-way mirror. You see things that the current one does not see yet. But it can also be a transforming experience if you allow yourselves to learn from each other.

These thoughts were running through my head when I was teasing **Cristine Bersola** and **Cooky Chua** about **Earl Ignacio**. It's common knowledge that Cooky's husband Earl and Tin-tin were college sweethearts. But of course Tin is now happy with **Julius Babao**.

I was just in a playful mood. No malice involved. The three of us had a good laugh. Tin-tin chuckled, "You *talaga! Intrigera!*" Cooky agreed: "*Oo nga! Ang tagal na n'on!*"

I smiled. "What advice can you give Cooky about Earl, Tin?" She blurted out, "Be patient. I'm glad you were able to tame him."

Cooky said, "I'm the one he needs to tame! Haha!"

Tin-tin laughed out loud. "He finally found his match. *Matagal ka namang* crush *talaga ni* Earl. We used to watch you perform at Bistro."

Cooky countered, "*Sabi nga ni* Earl *dapat akong magpasalamat sa 'yo* 'cause when I didn't know him *pa* and he kept watching my gigs, all I knew about him was he was your ex. *Chismosa ako* by nature so when he was making *pa*-cute to me, the first thing I asked him was why you and he split up. I refused to give him my telephone number until he told me what happened."

It was such a refreshing sight to see both women genuinely engrossed in each other's story. I suddenly felt like an eavesdropper. It seemed like they could talk for days. If only all women in the same situation could be as game as Tin-tin and Cooky.

Tin-tin revealed: "I guess what makes it easy for me is that Earl and I were best friends for the longest time before we went steady so now I think of him really as a friend. It's not hard to make the shift."

And what advice can Cooky give Tin-tin who'll marry Julius in 2003? Cooky said: "Never stop having fun. Keep doing the things you enjoyed doing when you were not married yet. Till now, even when our son **Joaquin** is already one year old, Earl and I still goof around. He's so cool. We would even fetch my ex-boyfriend sometimes and hang out together."

Now who says old lovers can never be friends? Tin-tin and Cooky even went a step further by befriending each other. From the way I see it, given a chance to really get close, Tin and Cooky could both find out that they have more than just Earl in common.

Janet and Mo so in love

I FELT like I was going to have a diabetes attack when I saw how **Janet McBride** and **Mo Twister** were so sweet with each other when we had lunch last week. It wasn't a case of blatant PDA (public display of affection) at all. They just looked so dazed together.

Mo came all the way from his photography class in UP to fetch Janet from the studio and to bring her back to her taping after lunch.

In between solving crossword puzzles, which they both enjoy doing, I teased Mo, "Every guy in town has a crush on Janet. Doesn't that bother you?"

He grinned, "I trust her completely," and then he gazed at Janet as if to reaffirm what he just said.

I probed some more. "But do you trust the guys around her?"

Mo laughed, "I don't care. Just write that she's the most beautiful girl on earth."

As I watched them walk hand in hand back to Mo's car in broad daylight, unmindful of the onlookers, I could not help feeling giddy knowing that love can still grow in show biz soil after all. Too bad some show biz couples messed up.

DONITA IN GENTXT PARTY

Gentext endorser and MTV Asia veejay Donita Rose was the special guest in the recently concluded Gentxt anniversary party held at the Eastwood City Walk in Libis, Quezon City. The event was hosted by MTV veejay Ed Fiest and Pia Guanio. Time and a Half and Passage gave a rousing performance. Simultaneous parties were held in Cebu, Baguio and Davao, as a way of saying "thank-you" to the year-round support Gentxters have extended to Globe Handyphone.

ASCORBIC A
PEN-C
POTEN-CEE

AGA'S VITAMINS

Award-winning actor Aga Muhlach shakes hand with Dr. Abraham Pascual, chair of Pascual Laboratories, after he renewed his contract as celebrity endorser of Poten-Cee Vitamins. Also present during the signing are (from left) Nick Lansang, marketing director; Manuel Salazar and Celia Aurellano, finance director.

DIETHER'S PIZZA

Teen heartthrob Diether Ocampo recently renewed his contract with Pizza Hut, the world's leading pizza restaurant, during the media launch of its latest product, Mexican Cheesy Crust Pizza. Present during the contract signing were (from left) Diether's manager Monch Navales, the actor, Elaine de Guzman, vice-president for marketing; and Henry Chua, ad and promo manager. Diether is on his second year as celebrity endorser of Pizza Hut. In a span of one year, he has made five TV commercials.

ANGEL'S FAVORITES

Model-actress-TV host Angel Aquino and her friends recently dined at Italianni's Bakery and Café in Glorietta IV, Makati City. Asked what she loves most about the Bakery and Café, Angel mentions her favorites—spinach and artichoke formaggio, strawberry cheesecake, pepperoni pizza and the giant chunky choco-chip cookie. Angel also makes sure she buys the popular focaccia and Tuscan bread with balsamic vinegar and olive oil dip. Italianni's Bakery and Café is open Sundays to Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

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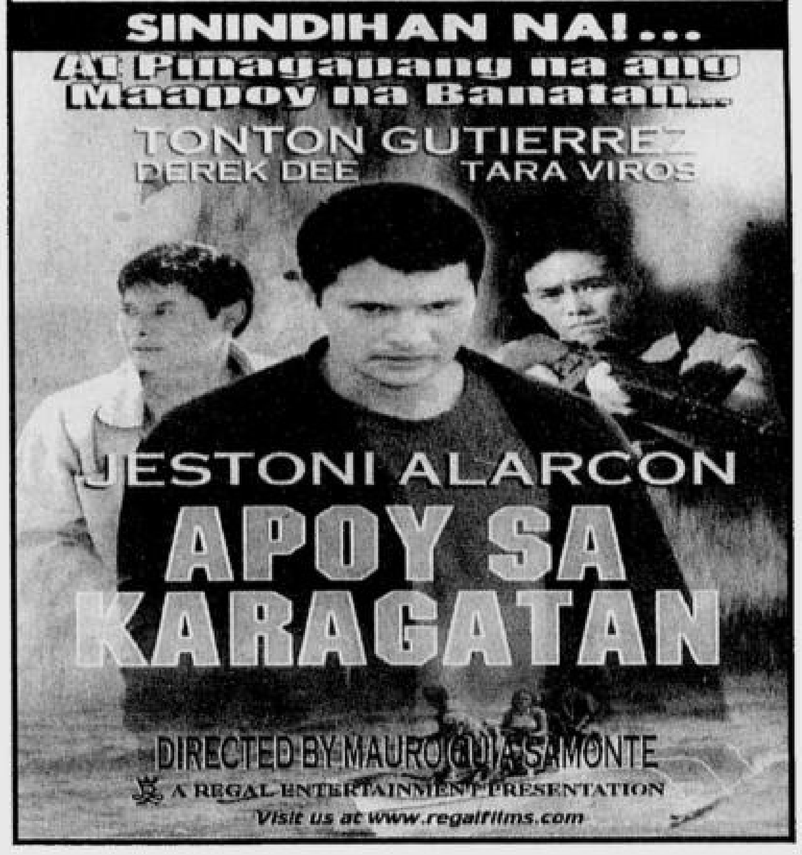
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1	2	3
HEAD OVER HEELS - P 13 12:20, 2:20, 4:20	PEARL HARBOR - P 13 11:30, 3:00	EVOLUTION - P 13 12:20, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
DR. T & THE WOMEN - R 18 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00	ACCIDENTAL SPY - P 13 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50	EVOLUTION - P 13 11:10, 1:20, 3:30

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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

"EVOLUTION" stars (from left) David Duchovny, Julianne Moore, Sean William Scott and Orlando Jones.

'EVOLUTION'

Not quite 'Ghostbusters,' but it will do nicely

BY RUBEN M. CRUZ JR.

REVIEW

WHEN I was a kid, I decided to go to this Halloween costume party in school clad as a Ghostbuster. I thought it was a brilliant idea.

I reckoned the gym would probably be full of ghosts, ghouls, goblins, witches, vampires, and all those other supernatural creatures. I would be different. I would be their slayer Fixing the get-up was a little difficult, but I had it all figured out. I rented the overall, made a Ghostbuster patch, and thanks to our new Euroclean vacuum cleaner, I even had the ghost-busting equipment.

I was going to have myself a riot, and I almost did had it not been for a bunch of other guys in school who had the same brilliant idea.

Even now, I laugh when I think about it. We even outnumbered the ghosts.

"Ghostbuster" was that kind of a film. I would even venture as far as saying that it is a classic in its genre, a film you never really get tired of watching. It made a ton of money, created childhood heroes of Bill Murray, Dan Akroyd, Harold Ramis and Ernie Hudson, and inspired a cartoon series and a song that even now doesn't fail to arouse the appropriate response.

I just sang it to the guys at the office. "If there's something strange in your neighborhood, who you gonna call?" And they chimed as one, "Ghostbusters!"

This is not, however, a review of "Ghostbusters" but of "Evolution" whose director, Ivan Reitman, was responsible for "Ghostbusters" and its sequel "Ghostbusters II." I just wanted to pay a short tribute to the guy who had me wanting to be a paranormal exterminator. After almost 12 years (since "Ghostbusters II"), Reitman is once again treading on familiar territory, the realm of his biggest filmmaking success—the science fiction comedy. That to me instantly made "Evolution" a film to watch.

To expect "Evolution" to be a film in the same class as "Ghostbusters" is, of course, unfair. Even "Ghostbusters II" didn't live up to the original. At the very least, I was hoping to find the same clever humor that suffused Reitman's first work. And for the most part, "Evolution" does have that.

The film's heroes are community college biology professor Ira Kane (David Duchovny) and geology professor and women's volleyball coach Harry Block (Orlando Jones of "The Replacements"). Ira and Harry resemble Doctors Peter Venkman, Raymond Stantz and Egon Spengler. They are nerds, but cool nerds, geniuses with very charming idiosyncrasies. As always is the case in films like this, on their unsteady hands rests the survival of mankind.

But Harry and Ira are out to save the world not from a giant marshmallow man but from an alien civilization brought to the Earth when a meteor crashes in the Arizona dessert. The two professors sneak into the scene and, upon taking samples, discover that the living organisms on the meteor are multiplying and evolving at a rapid pace, a pace that Ira says will take the aliens only a few days what mankind took two billion years to achieve.

"So these germs are the embodiment of the American dream," Harry quips.

Before they are able to investigate further, the military, led by Ira's old nemesis, General Woodman (Ted Levine), takes over and cordons off the crash site. Woodman makes sure that Ira and Harry are kept out of the loop.

But various hostile creatures start turning up everywhere, and the two professors, together with Wayne (Seann William Scott, the doofus in "American Pie" and "Dude, Where's My Car?"), an aspiring fireman on whose car the meteor lands, are forced to form an anti-alien hit squad a la "Men in Black."

They also gain a sympathetic ear from the government's leading scientist, Dr. Allison Reed (Julianne Moore), who finds merit in their threatening theory about the alien life form.

The film manages to entertain with an easy-going charm, with the comedy flowing naturally scene after scene. The storyline is outrageous and full of loopholes, but one doesn't exactly go to watch a sci-fi comedy for its tight narrative, and this one is strictly tongue-in-cheek entertainment.

Ira, Harry and the rest of the heroes don't inspire the same rooting interest as the Ghosbusters did, but the banter between the "Evolution" characters is just as funny.

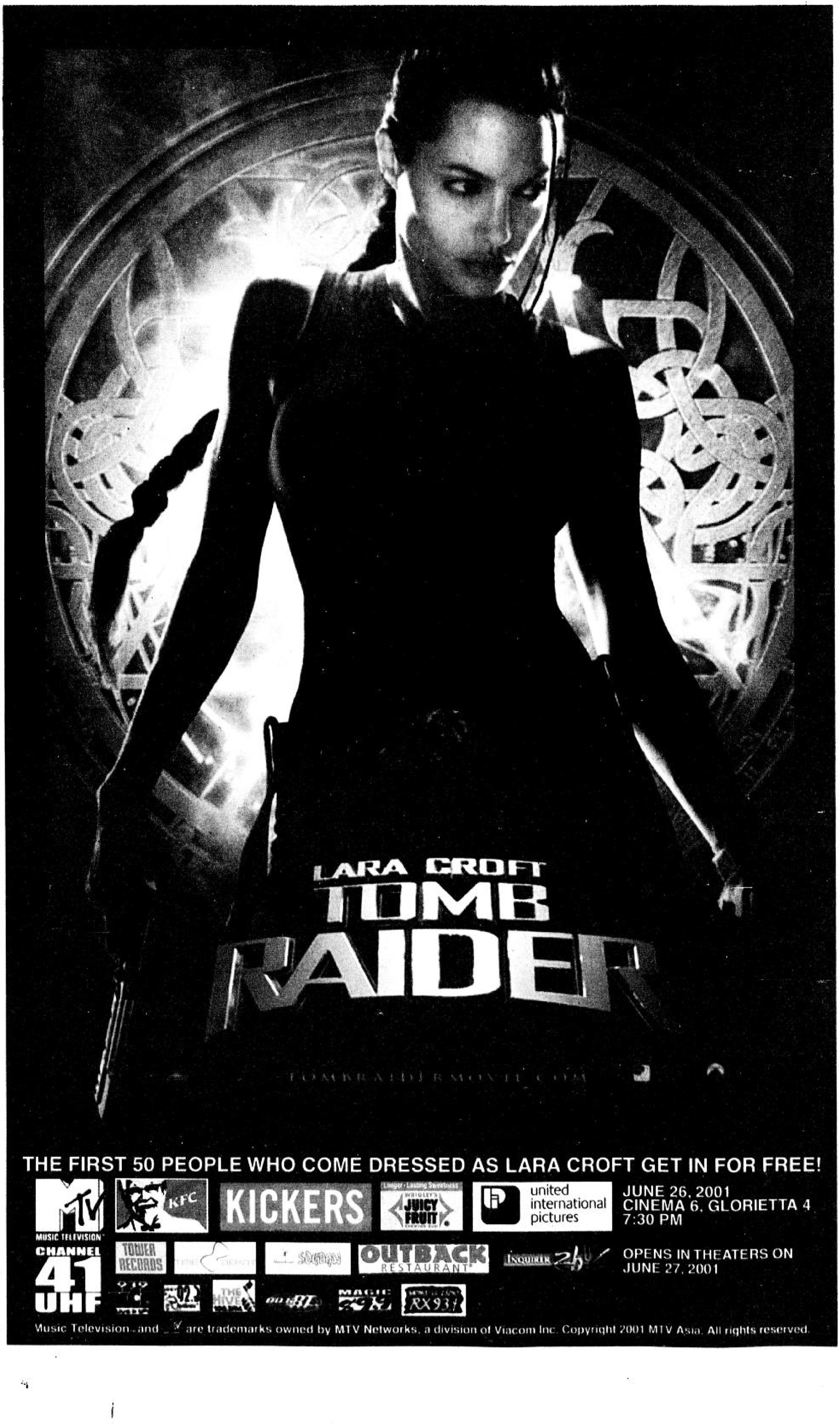
Duchovny and Jones engage in witty repartee throughout the film, their deadpan humor similar to that of Akroyd (who appears in a cameo), Murray and Ramis in "Ghostbusters." Their partnership really clicks and is further complemented by the choice of Scott as their bumbling sidekick.

It's also refreshing to see Moore in a non-serious role and she adapts quite nicely, but her character is not really given that much screen time to matter. It seems she's just there so Duchovny has someone to kiss at the end, for the sake of tradition.

The quality of the special effects employed is a little sketchy, definitely a few grades below that of "Jurassic Park," but it's all right because somehow it doesn't engulf the film's humor. I referred to "Jurassic Park" because there is a pterodactyl-like creature in "Evolution" that seems to be a total rip-off from the dinosaur film.

In fact, it's just one of the many aliens which bear more than a passing resemblance to creatures we've seen in other films. But the screenplay (Don Jakoby, David Diamond and David Weisman) at least presents new ideas where these creatures can wreak havoc.

I really would have preferred to have "Ghostbusters III," but I don't think that's ever gonna happen. So "Evolution" will do nicely.



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BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

Gov't vows tighter money-laundering laws

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

FACING sanction threats from the United States, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said yesterday that the government was committed to reform anti-money laundering laws.

"As the noose tightens around our neck, it will be easier to push for reforms," Camacho said. "Our problem is the central bank has no power to look into suspicious accounts. Our rules and regulations lack teeth."

The United States and its economic allies last Friday gave the Philippines, Russia and the Pacific island nation of Nauru until Sept. 30 to crack down on money laundering or face tighter sanctions.

Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura said yesterday that an anti-money laundering bill was already prepared but was delayed by the May 14 local and congressional elections. The new Congress is to take power next month.

Buenaventura said they would ask Congress to pass the "minimum requirements" to get the country off an international blacklist of money laundering havens.

Buenaventura told reporters that Malacañang had agreed to certify as urgent to Congress an omnibus anti-money laundering bill that would also help track ransom payments at a time when it was enforcing a strict no-ransom rule.

"With an anti-money laundering law, ransom payments would be classified as laundered money," said the central bank chief, noting that a new measure could be included in the President's State of the Nation Address.

The bank had said it wanted to reform bank secrecy laws to help get the country off a blacklist of suspected international havens for money laundering and tax evasion. Earlier this year, the central bank formed a task force to investigate and maintain a database of suspicious banking transactions.

Buenaventura said that apart from the proposed bills, the central bank had also reached agreement with local banks to "no longer accept foreign currency deposits from non-residents unless they waive their right to secrecy."

"This is voluntary, and that's the reason why" the FATF told Manila that "it must have the force of law," Buenaventura said.

He conceded that international criminal gangs could be exploiting the country's strict bank secrecy laws to use Philippine-based banks to launder money acquired through illegal activities.

He said criminal syndicates from Taiwan and China could be funneling "billions of dollars" in drug money through Philippine banks.

He said the government's priorities were to get Congress to pass a law that would make money laundering a crime, and an amendment to the Central Bank Act that would empower monetary authorities to inspect suspicious bank transactions exceeding P50 million or $1 million.

He said there was strong opposition to the second measure due to concerns that the government could abuse this power.

A 30-nation financial task force issued a report Friday singling out the Philippines, Russia and Nauru as having failed to make progress in fighting money laundering over the past year, when they were named on a new "blacklist" with 12 other countries and territories.

The new punishments could include requiring US and other banks to gather detailed information before doing business with companies or individuals from the three countries, or warning international companies away from them.

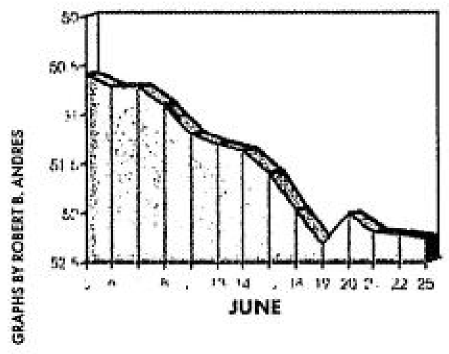
The measures will take effect Sept. 30 unless Russia, the Philippines and Nauru governments "enact significant legislation before then to address these problems," the US Treasury Department said in a statement Friday.

With INQUIRER wire reports

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



Peso-Dollar Rate

P52.265 = $1

As of 5 p.m., June 25, 2001

¥124.02 = $1

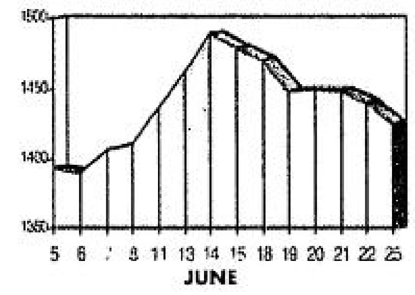
The US dollar was trading at 124.02 as of 5 p.m., June 25, 2001

GOLD:$272.80/273.80

per ounce Hong Kong, June 22, 2001

STOCK MARKET

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Stocks slump

STOCKS extended their decline yesterday in the absence of convincing leads that could revive buying interest, traders said.

Many players were also reluctant to take new positions due to concerns over the impact of reported oil price hikes this week. The media reports of the hike also saw Petron Corp. shares close down 12 centavos at P2.06, dealers said.

The Philippine main index slumped 1.06 percent, or 15.25 points, to 1,424.52 points on thin volume of P344.48 million.

Decliners outclassed gainers 51 to 22, while there were 37 stocks unchanged.

"The investors are pretty skittish at the moment so they're staying at the sidelines," said PCCI Securities president Francisco Liboro.

"The currency exchange is not helping us as well. We will continue to see it (stock market) drift for a while," he said.

Edison Yap, a fund manager at Equitable PCI Trust, said there were hardly any significant activities in the market. *Reuters*

BOP deficit at $512M

THE PHILIPPINES' balance of payments (BOP) for the first three months of the year was at a deficit of $512 million, Bangko Sentral data showed yesterday.

The current account surplus stood at $1.337 billion for the same period.

In the first two months of the year, the country posted a BOP deficit of $1.087 billion and a current account surplus of $1.23 billion.

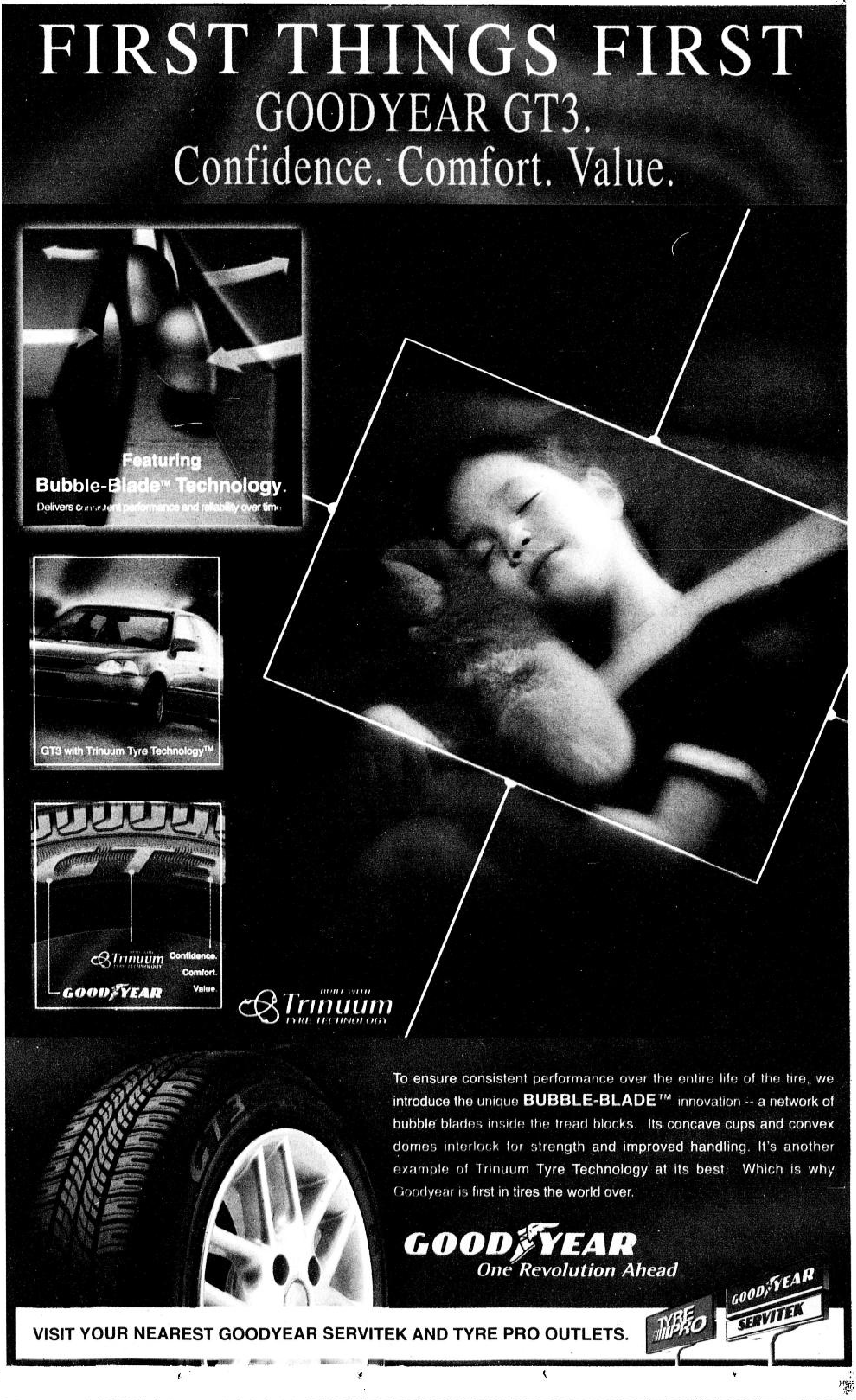
A huge borrowing of the Bangko Sentral in March cut by half the BOP deficit from a two-month deficit of $1.087 billion.

In March alone, the BOP position registered a surplus of $575 million from a deficit of $597 million a year ago and $490 million in the January-February period.

However, the first quarter BOP position still deteriorated compared to the $982-million surplus in the same period last year.

A BSP official explained that the central bank's $740-million borrowing from a syndicate of 19 banks last March pulled up a portion of the financial accounts to register a surplus of $1.015 billion from a surplus of $437 million a month ago.

As opposed to a turnaround in BOP position, the current account started to reflect the slowdown in exports in March as the surplus drastically slid to $190 million from the January and February surplus of $469 million and $678 million.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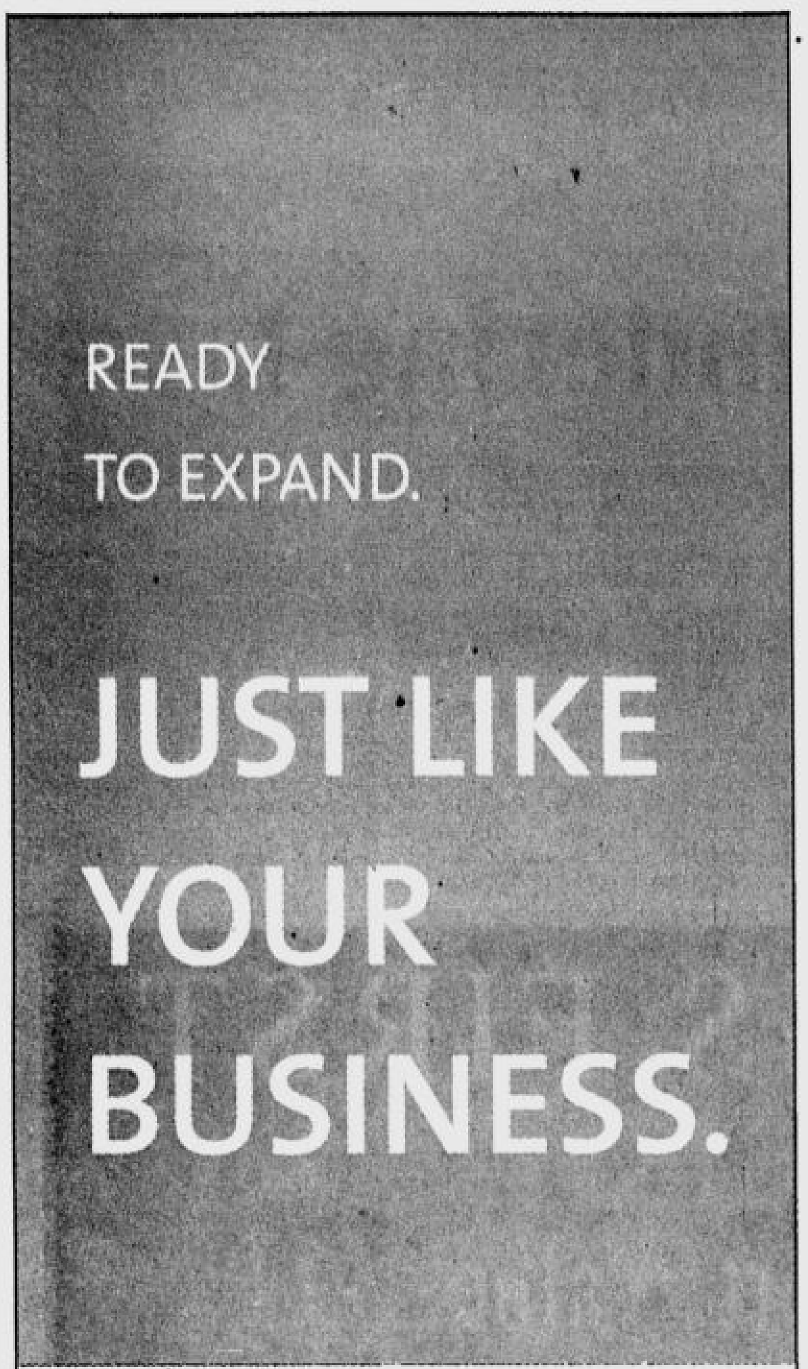

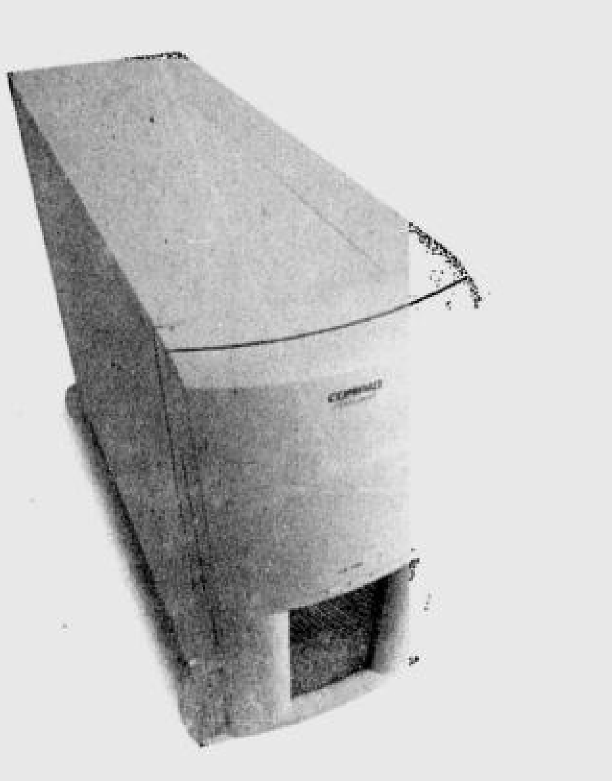

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Familiarity breeds attempt

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

YOU cannot imagine how lucky we are that there's another plot for . . . well, "destabilization." This is a technical term, of course, and it is used extensively by secret agents. Also by Malacañang!

Word from the Palace is that this cute administration got intelligence reports, i.e. the work of secret agents who have iced tea for brains, that we are being treated to another round of destabilization.

That means, well, we get to enjoy some strife here and there, and some conflicts everywhere. We can thus expect one, bad traffic; two, a lot of wasted hours; and, three, stupid commentaries on radio.

* * *

FOR us down here, anyway, we simply know it as "too much trouble." The news doesn't sound nice that way. You cannot expect Glorietta, for instance, to warn us that some groups are planning to overthrow her government through "too much trouble."

The news becomes staid in the absence of trouble. This is bad for business. How can news outfits survive? For instance, you really don't expect all those foreign news organizations to pick up reports like this:

"At least 100 people were not injured in the Philippines yesterday, and nobody was killed. President Arroyo also did not dismiss calls for her five-month-old administration to set free 80 million people who were not arrested as of press time."

* * *

THAT'S why we need trouble. Without it, the peso's exchange rate should only settle down, more investments should also begin to come into the country, and the economy should recover soon. Do you really want that? You know—that kind of horror?

You know that the most optimistic economists in the country are all working for the government. Even they have already lowered their targets for economic growth this year. Yet their targets look like wishful thinking alongside most other growth forecasts.

I'm sure that everybody just loves the way that our economy is slowing down. It is forcing businesses to either scale down or close down. This makes a lot of us miserable because we lose our jobs. To top it all, we make our mothers-in-law angry.

* * *

SUCH an amazing feat would have been impossible had the troublemakers abandoned their hobby early on. Through sheer persistence, they were able to scare the bejesus out of every investor in sight from here to the Great Red Spot of the planet Jupiter.

Today, fortunately, they still get a lot of encouragement from the people who do not support them, anyway. They are thus certain, with such a show of lack of support, they will fail again.

That's the beauty of it all. Nothing will happen. This cute administration will remain in office. Somebody will still be jailed in a government hospital. Meanwhile, the economy is going to the dogs. That is, if we can still afford not to eat the dogs.

* * *

AN economic slowdown affects even somebody as rich as the government. Heck, it affects the Bureau of Internal Revenue. And how richer can you get than that? Ha, ha!

As of last month, for instance, the BIR was able to raise its collection by some P18 billion. Yet it was still short of the target. Why? Because the government assigned the BIR a dream target, which was based on projections of a high economic growth.

To illustrate, last year the bureau collected something like P360 billion. The government said it would need much more than the amount this year. So why doesn't the BIR collect something like P410 billion? What's P50 billion more, anyway?

For BIR Commissioner Rene Bañez, it's a lot of money, and it means exerting a lot of pressure on business that, as the downscaling of the economic target indicates, is already turning bad. What's that—business with pressure?

* * *

ANYWAY, Bañez is the same guy who got a TRO from a court in Quezon City ordering him to stop all this foolishness about his doing his job well. I am not kidding; it has come to that! Sooner or later, the courts can tell you to stop cleaning your ears of wax.

It seems that Bañez did what all other commissioners had done before him. He rotated the personnel of the bureau to different posts. For what? Well, for keeping them on their toes. As they say in the bureau, familiarity breeds attempt.

A few years ago, a similar case was filed against the BIR chief. The Supreme Court ruled the commissioner had authority to move people. Can you imagine if the didn't? It would mean that BIR personnel already bought the rights over their positions!

* * *

THIS is not the first reshuffle in the BIR. During the time of the man named Band . . . Wrist Band . . . the bureau was reshuffled twice—first under Beethoven Rualo and then under Dakila Fonacier. Did anybody complain?

To think, at that time, it was rumored that somebody close to somebody in the Palace was even selling district officer positions in the bureau. This time, the same positions were not for sale. Apparently, BIR people love to pay for things.

Bañez even used a process in the reassignment that was applied equally. And he did not decide things on his own. Together with the deputy commissioners, they interviewed the BIR officials. This was hardly done before.

Yet, in the manifesto purportedly signed by several BIR personnel, many of whom claimed that their signatures were forged, a few BIR people had the nerve to call for Bañez's ouster. Why? Let me see, because he is so stupid, he is doing his job?

Gov't taps private group for help in Meralco sale

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance has tapped the Investment Houses Association of the Philippines (Ihap) to help come up with the best option in disposing the government's remaining 10-percent stake in Manila Electric Co.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said he has met with Ihap officials to discuss how the Meralco shares could be widely dispersed in the stock market.

Camacho hinted that he was not in favor of a block sale of the shares. "We would like a wider distribution of the shares and promote the domestic capital markets," he said in a statement.

The finance chief said he was still studying an option to offer warrants to maximize the gains from the sale of the blue-chip stock.

Camacho said the sale of the Meralco shares would be a priority of the Privatization Management Office especially after the passage of the power reform bill early this month.

"While the market may still be a little weak, we suspect that those interested in buying Meralco shares are more upbeat now because of the recent passage of the power bill," he said.

Two years ago, Meralco shares were worth about P9 billion but with the market's steep decline, the Meralco stocks are now worth a little over P5 billion.

Camacho explained the government could sell Meralco warrants at P50 per share with a call-strike price of P65 each and put-strike price of P40 per share.

With the put-and-call option, say for three years, the government could buy back the shares at P65 per share if the price rises. At the same time, it could force the investors to buy the stocks at P40 each if Meralco shares plunge.

He said this derivatives option would allow the government to have a share in any future improvement in the share price of the electric distributor or cap losses if the stock price deteriorates.

Of the 10-percent stake, 16.7 million shares are being held by the Office of the President, three million shares are with the Republic of the Philippines and 45 million shares are with the Asset Trust Privatization.

Meralco is the country's biggest electric distributor serving 3.1 million customers from Bulacan to Batangas, including the densely populated Metro Manila.

DISCLOSURES

ITOGON-Suyoc Mines Inc. moved its annual stockholders' meeting from July 16 to July 25, 8:30 a.m. To be taken up during the meeting would be plans to amend its articles of incorporation for the expansion of its secondary purposes to include information technology and communication.

* * *

NOMINEES to the board of **Metro Alliance Holdings and Equities Corp.** include Renato Magadia, Kasigod Jamias, Jose Perez, Aristeo Cruz, Angel Umali, Michael Leo Luna and Avelino Sebastian.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Magnum Holdings Inc.** were Toribio Reyes III, Jose Abad Santos III, Felix Ang, Felix Chung, Bernardine Siy, Willy Tee Ten and Rosario Bernaldo.

* * *

FIRST Metro Investment Corp. disclosed that the Securities and Exchange Commission approved the amendments made in the company's by-laws wherein provisions on the trust business and the redeemable preferred shares were deleted.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Philippine Seven Corp.** were Vicente Paterno, Yen-Sen Yang, Jorge Araneta, Diana Aguilar, Chung-Jen Hsu, Chien-Nan Hsieh, Fu-Tang Chen, Jui-Tang Chen, Kuo-Hsuan Wu, Manuel Agustines and Alfredo Ramos.

Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Monday, June 25, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	100	100	100	100	154,200
Bank Of The Phil. Islands	74	74	73.5	74	174,500
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	38.5	38.5	38	38	79,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	216	216	210	211	110,930
Philippine National Bank	45	45	44.5	45	45,300
Security Bank Corp.	19.75	19.75	19.75	19.75	3,300
Union Bank of the Phil.	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.5	3,700
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	102,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	231	240	230	240	800
Manulife Financial Corp.	1405	1405	1405	1405	7,280
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1175	1190	1175	1190	24,210
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	40.5	40.5	40	40	8,400
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.5	0.5	210,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.038	0.038	0.037	0.037	1,700,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	110,000
Piltel	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	20,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	710	710	710	710	46,610
Ivantage Corp.	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	330,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.037	0.038	0.037	0.038	91,800,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	39	39.5	39	39	7,800
Manila Electric Co. B	55.5	56	55.5	55.5	336,600
Petron Corp.	2.18	2.18	2.02	2.06	10,649,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	70,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.3	2.3	2.12	2.28	8,453,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	20,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	99,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	10,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	160,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	10,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.18	1.2	1.18	1.18	1,045,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.06	2.06	2.06	2.06	1,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	4.65	4.65	4.4	4.5	1,730,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	184,800
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	26.5	27	26.5	27	12,100
RFM Corp.	1.4	1.46	1.36	1.44	2,592,000
San Miguel Corp. A	42.5	42.5	42	42.5	6,600
San Miguel Corp. B	47.5	47.5	47.5	47.5	190,500
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.79	0.79	0.77	0.77	80,000
Ayala Corp.	7.1	7.1	7	7.1	2,218,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.44	1.46	1.44	1.46	630,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11	11	10.75	10.75	1,700
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	1.02	1.38	1	1.38	12,790,000
APC Group Inc.	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	700,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	11,000,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.23	0.24	980,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.68	1.68	1.58	1.58	6,410,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.3	1,670,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	49,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	25.5	26	25.5	26	114,600
Global Equities Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	10,000
Ionics Inc.	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	10,000
Ipeople Inc.	1.14	1.38	1.14	1.3	919,000
Ipeople Inc. B	1.18	1.44	1.18	1.44	400,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.12	2.12	2.12	2.12	10,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.78	0.78	0.74	0.78	1,890,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	10,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	70,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.49	0.49	0.48	0.48	680,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	400,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.5	0.5	630,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	20,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	320,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.25	0.25	60,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Corp.	2	2	1.94	1.94	249,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	120,000
Reynolds Philippine Corp.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	60,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	210,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	15.25	15.25	15	15	76,800
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.46	0.46	0.42	0.43	980,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.62	0.63	0.58	0.58	4,800,000
Manila Jockey Club	16	16	16	16	5,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.27	0.3	0.27	0.27	210,000
Philippine Racing Club	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	30,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
DMCI Holdings Inc.-Pref.	495	495	495	495	200
Equitable PCI Bank-War	2.02	2.02	2.02	2.02	10,000
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	680	680	680	680	200
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0028	0.0028	0.0026	0.0026	120,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10	10	10	10	1,400
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	800
Philweb.Com. Inc.-Warrants	0.029	0.029	0.027	0.027	16,500,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	6	6	6	6	10,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.5	5.5	5.3	5.4	2,954,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.26	0.27	1,430,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	300,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	8,910,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	50,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.2	2.2	2.18	2.18	5,231,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	10,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.4	3,218,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	100,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	30,000,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.8	1.88	1.8	1.88	10,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.07	0.075	0.0575	0.0575	193,700,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines B	0.07	0.075	0.055	0.055	10,400,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.185	0.185	0.18	0.18	220,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	10,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	49,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	93,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.018	0.018	0.017	0.017	6,400,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	330,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.38	0.39	0.36	0.36	3,050,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	160,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	3,000,000
Interport Res.	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	15,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.004	0.0042	0.004	0.0042	4,000,000
Pacifica	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.015	20,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	800,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	705,220	96,445,335.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	305,140,710	180,080,000.00
PRO	22,203,000	51,178,100.00
Mining	386,280,000	15,845,200.00
OIL	43,800,000	513,200.00
GRAND TOTALS:	758,128,930	344,061,835.00
AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	586 80	DOWN 7.21
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,997.01	DOWN 14.92
PRO	542.20	DOWN 8.39
Mining	1,381.94	DOWN 107.96
OIL	1.49	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	789.04	DOWN 2.34
Composite	1,424.52	DOWN 15.25

NO. OF ADVANCES: 22; NO. OF DECLINES: 51; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 37; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 110; NO. OF TRADES: 3,124

CURRENCIES

June 25, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.166045	1.000000	52.2810
Japan	Yen	0.009367	0.008033	0.4200
United Kingdom	Pound	1.648204	1.413500	73.8992
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.149685	0.128370	6.7113
Switzerland	Franc	0.657891	0.564207	29.4973
Canada	Dollar	0.766126	0.657030	34.3502
Singapore	Dollar	0.640578	0.549360	28.7211
Australia	Dollar	0.602919	0.517063	27.0326
Bahrain	Dinar	3.093122	2.652661	138.6838
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.310946	0.266667	13.9416
Brunei	Dollar	0.638404	0.547495	28.6236
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000103	0.000088	0.0046
Thailand	Baht	0.025786	0.022114	1.1561
UAE	Dirham	0.317550	0.272331	14.2377
Korea	Won	0.001045	0.000896	0.0468
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.857600	44.8362
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.438484	22.9244
France	Franc	0.152450	0.130740	6.8352
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.389162	20.3458
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.062324	3.2584
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.021259	1.1114
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000443	0.0232
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.144238	7.5409
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004278	0.2237
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005154	0.2695
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.021259	1.1114
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.088927	56.9302

ERAP TRIAL AWAITED

Peso continues to weaken

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

BANGKO Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura said yesterday he believed the peso was unlikely to decline to the 53-to-$1 level in the near term.

Buenaventura conceded that he might have spoken too soon on the peso's recovery as he recognized that the upcoming trial of former President Joseph Estrada helped spook the market anew.

He said the local currency not only struggled against regional weakness yesterday but also contended with a renewed uneasiness with the domestic situation after President Macapagal-Arroyo disclosed last Thursday a planned destabilization move against her government this week.

The peso has been under pressure for the last two weeks and closed at 52.265 to $1 yesterday from 52.21 last Friday although the volume of transactions only reached $54.95 million.

He also told reporters that the central bank did not intervene in the foreign exchange market yesterday or last week.

He said some slight steadying of the peso late last week might have been due to "the possibility that we might (intervene)."

"We are always there to do what's necessary," he said.

On the currency's slide to 52 to the dollar, he said "unfortunately there was a weakening in other regions' (currencies)."

He added the prognosis for the peso was that it would improve over time.

Buenaventura last Friday said the peso should make a gradual comeback to a range of P51-52 to $1 this week after the monetary authorities tried to eliminate factors that could have led to the peso's weakness in the last two weeks.

He referred to measures such as the possibility of a BSP intervention, stricter monitoring of foreign exchange transactions, and even suspending any plans to cut interest rates this week even if the US Federal Reserve would ease its rates.

Yesterday, Buenaventura dismissed his optimistic projections and said exchange "rates will be sticky for a while."

Traders yesterday agreed that the former President's upcoming trial added nervousness in a market already spooked by the Abu Sayyaf hostage crisis and the spate of kidnappings that had ensued.

This was the reason some companies and banks were building up their dollar reserves in preparation for any untoward event that may come up with Estrada's trial, a trader from a foreign bank said.

Buenaventura said the central bank was prepared to intervene in the market when necessary although he stressed there was no need to sell dollars yesterday.

He pointed out that compared to other currencies, the peso remained competitive.

On a year-to-date basis, the peso's decline of 4.19 percent was almost at par with the Thai baht's 4.14-percent drop and was even softer compared to the Japanese yen's 8.02-percent fall and the Indonesian rupiah's 14.73-percent depreciation.

The Australian dollar, on a year-to-date basis, also weakened by 7.63 percent, the New Zealand dollar by 7.68 percent, the British pound by 5.7 percent, and the Euro by 9.59 percent.

Land reform targets 100,000 hectares/year

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

THE GOVERNMENT is working to complete the comprehensive land reform program (CARP) within this decade by prioritizing further land distribution and other agrarian support activities, Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas said yesterday.

Canlas told reporters after his speech at a conference on prosperity building for the poor that the Macapagal administration was targeting to distribute more than 100,000 hectares of land each year to cover the remaining land under the CARP.

CARP is now on its 13th year of implementation. Land reform in the country started during the time of former President Diosdado Macapagal, the President's father. Since then, more than 5.3 million hectares have been redistributed to their tenants.

Canlas said that since CARP was a top priority, the government would aggressively look for the funds needed to buy the land that would be redistributed to the farmers.

"And of course there are still the support services to worry about," Canlas said.

During his speech, the government's top economist stressed that the CARP was necessary to accelerate comprehensive rural development.

"Majority of the poor are in rural agricultural areas engaged in subsistence farming and fishing. To raise agricultural productivity and rural household incomes, agriculture must be modernized," Canlas said.

Canlas has called for the full implementation of the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act. He said farmers and fisher folks must have access to modern agricultural and fishery inputs and tools developed through research and development.

Ayala unit allots ₱830M for expansion

INTEGRATED Microelectronics Inc., the electronic subsidiary of the Ayala group, is investing P830 million to put up a new factory to assemble fiber optic transceiver modules.

IMI will sell its production of fiber optic transceiver modules to Colorado-based Cielo Communications. The company will put up the new factory on a 900-square meter lot at the Laguna Technopark Inc.'s special economic zone.

The transceiver module is used to convert information coming in the form of light energy into the optical receiver pigtail and into the electrical information.

The project is expected to generate P1.44 billion in annual sales but only P44.182 million in net income. The project is expected to start commercial operations in September this year.

The Philippine Economic Zone Authority granted IMI pioneer incentives for the project which entitles the firm to a four-year income tax holiday aside from the standard preferred duties on imports and taxes on income. The Peza deemed the project as entirely different from IMI's other products in terms of the raw materials, machinery and manufacturing process used.

IMI has already invested P2.267 billion for 24 production lines in the country. Although its exports earnings have surged 138 percent to $48.8 million last year, total sales fell 21 percent to P1.58 billion last year from P2 billion in 1999.

Aside from Ayala Corp., the major stockholders of IMI are Resins Inc. and Japanese investors Japan Asia Investment Co., Yamaha Corp. and Mitsubishi Corp.

DTI pursues imports of India-made drugs

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry has stepped up its campaign to pull down prices of medicine in the country by enticing private hospitals to sell the cheap drugs imported from India.

Trade Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II said the management of several hospitals have expressed interest in reviewing their procurement procedures in order to facilitate the immediate sale of cheap drugs from India in their pharmacies.

Roxas said it normally takes up to two years to review the new drugs and their suppliers before they are sold in their pharmacies.

Roxas said the private hospitals were interested in retailing the India-made drugs because they were substantially cheaper than their equivalent local counterparts.

The DTI has already made four shipments since it first brought in the Indian drugs into the country last year. All of its shipments, however, were sold only through government hospitals.

In one of its shipments, the DTI claimed that its cargo worth P25.8 million was being sold at Mercury Drug for P66.78 million based on prevailing prices. The DTI said this meant that the consumer would have to pay only 38 percent of what the drugs would cost from the local retail outlets.

The DTI's parallel importation, which started last year, has been intensified, albeit inconspicuously, despite the pending case filed by the Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Association, which claimed that the move was illegal because it would violate their exclusive distribution contract in the country.

Despite the legal challenge, the DTI is bent on selling more drugs from India by selling through private hospitals and local government units. Roxas maintained that there were other countries, such as Thailand, that have resorted to parallel imports to lower drug prices.

₱600-M SSS loan seen expensive for Urban

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

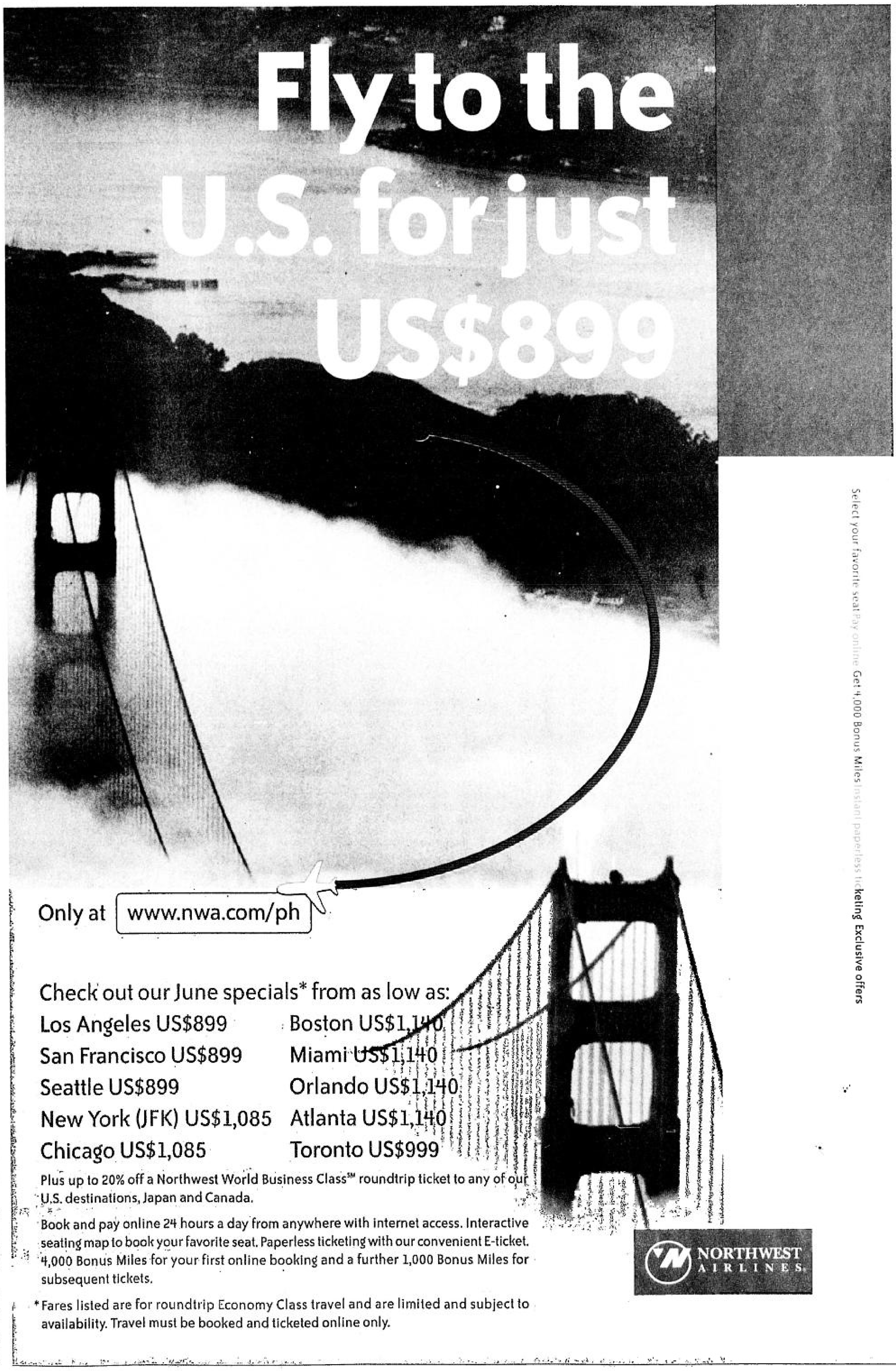
EXPORT and Industry Bank will defer the drawdown of a P600-million loan being extended by the Social Security System in line with the rehabilitation of closed Urban Bank Inc. and Urbancorp Investments Corp., EIB president Benjamin Castillo said.

Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. president Norberto Nazareno told the INQUIRER the other day that a PDIC management team had determined that the shuttered bank can be revived based on the rehabilitation plan proposed by EIB and the National Association of Urban Bank and Urbancorp Depositors and creditors.

Nazareno said the proposed plan was deemed "viable" and would be presented this week to the PDIC board and the Monetary Board, the policy-making body of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

Under the plan, EIB, a small commercial bank largely owned by the Philippine Exporters Confederation Inc., would merge with Urban Bank and Urbancorp to create an entity with P6 billion in capital funds.

In discussions between EIB and PDIC, the latter had noted that the P600-million loan from SSS was more expensive than other borrowings of the Urban group.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Terms & conditions Online booking service is only available to passengers with a registered mailing address in the Philippines. Travel must be booked and ticketed online at Northwest's WorldWeb Reservations at www.nwa.com/ph from June 11 - June 30, 2001. WorldWeb reservations will display the lowest fare available for your itinerary. Special Economy Class fares must be booked in Q class (M class for Toronto) for departure from Philippines between June 11 - June 30, 2001. World Business Class fares are valid on roundtrip C class fares. Return travel must be completed within 90 days from date of departure for special fares on World Business Class and Economy Class. Bonus Mile offer is valid until December 31, 2001. Bonus Miles will be awarded upon completion of a qualifying flight. Only one Bonus Mile award will be given for each reservation confirmation number. For full terms and conditions please visit www.nwa.com/ph.

Cosmos attracts ardent suitors

EDITOR'S Note: *Stock prices of Cosmos Bottling Corp. have shot up in recent weeks due to speculations that a bidding war has ensued between San Miguel Corp. and Pepsi Cola Philippines Inc. with the profitable soft-drinks subsidiary of food and beverage conglomerate RFM Corp. as the grand prize.*

Cosmos' market share of between 20 and 25 percent and its extensive distribution network have made it very attractive to these companies, who believe that Cosmos' hold on the middle market will be a perfect fit to Coke or Pepsi's operations.

Cosmos chair and chief executive Jose Concepcion III explains in this exclusive interview the story behind Cosmos: how it started, where it is today, and where RFM wants to take Cosmos tomorrow.

Q&A

Question: How did the acquisition of Cosmos come about? What made you want to buy into this type of business?

Answer: When I joined RFM and eventually started to head it in 1989, I felt that our company was too dependent on the flour milling business. This was where we started and I felt it was a matter of time that the flour industry will be saturated by a lot of players.

The company we were really targeting at that time was Pepsi. We were close to coming into a deal with them but had difficulty in getting them to agree on a concentrate pricing (from Pepsi Cola International) needed to sustain the local bottling business.

The other group that was bidding for the business was more aggressive and agreed to a higher concentrate fee. So I looked around and it just happened that I met a branch of the family who wanted to sell Cosmos.

By that time, they were around already for about 70 years but felt the business was not moving forward. We were successful in buying that family block and then eventually in buying all the shares.

At that time, Cosmos' market share was only 5 percent. Pop Cola was a brand that was nowhere. The potential of Sarsi was there, and we thought at that time Sarsi was going to be the banner brand of the business.

Q: How were the first years of Cosmos under the RFM Group?

A: The first two years was a nightmare. We had difficulty integrating the business. First, learning the business was hard. We started with the old management team of Cosmos, which was fine, but did not bring us the kind of success we wanted to see in market share growth. We brought in non-soft drink people and they too failed.

During this whole process, while trying to buy Pepsi, I became close to their old management team. Since we were in the process of buying Pepsi, I knew most of the senior management team members.

During this three-year experience, I was able to learn the soft-drinks business, but felt I needed to bring in a strong chief operating officer and a strong marketing man.

Finding the COO was challenging. Finally, I decided to ask and convinced Tony Panajon to join me. Tony then was retired from Pepsi and had his own business. Gerry Garcia, another key person here who handles marketing, is actually the one who started the Pop Cola brand. He also came from Pepsico International.

After repeated overtures, he liked what was being formed in Cosmos and joined Tony and his team. Tony brought in his team from Pepsi that I refer to as the war veterans. This, to me, was the first and most important thing that helped me shape the vision I had for Cosmos. Without this team today, my dream would just have been half fulfilled.

Q: What do you think are the key success factors in getting Cosmos to where it is today?

A: Selecting the chief operating officer and building that management team was very important to me. The chemistry between myself, the CEO, and Tony, the COO, was important in building a cohesive team. I will not say it has come in smoothly. We have disagreements but, in the end, it is important for both to have recognized each other's strengths.

To a large extent, Tony is a very good operations person, who deals well with people. My strength will be more on the marketing and key strategies. Thus, it is important to have a great COO in the implementation.

He has been successful in integrating the team into one organization, not only as a professional organization, but one where Christian values have been instilled. This to me is key.

The next important thing was knowing your goals. It is great to dream, but one has to face reality. In the earlier stages, we wanted to become a Coke overnight. Our advertising executions were of Coke in nature. Our pricing strategy was a Coke premium pricing, and we wanted to beat them overnight.

Things changed when we started to realize that we were not a Coke and we would never be a Coke. We had to create our own identity. We brought back Pop Cola to its old price. We gave the Filipino consumer more value for money. This was actually done also to generate trial.

And for three years we did this strategy, very little money was placed in advertising since all our support went to pricing. It did wonders for us.

Little by little our market share started to grow. People bought Pop because it was cheap and, when they tried it, was satisfied to find out it tasted just as good as Coke. We wanted the Filipino consumers to like the Pop taste, and this is why we made it a little sweeter with not too much carbonation.

This was done after so much research on our target market. We started with a 5-percent market share when we bought Pop Cola.

Q: So was pricing your only strategy in getting market share?

A: No, it is the total value-for-money strategy. One cannot just give a low price. You should have a good-quality product. So from a purely value strategy, it has been about five years now since we pushed for building our brand, Pop Cola.

Our marketing budgets for media have increased tremendously especially on our latest campaign on "*Tamang Timpla*," which is now a huge success. We feel we want to communicate to our market that Pop Cola taste is made for the Filipino palate. It has just the right sweetness and carbonation to make it a great product.

This campaign line has been going on for the last three years now. We started with Cris Villongco, then Billy Joe Crawford. And now, we got two young talents in this commercial, which many people say is a winner for us. I believe we were able to communicate to our market our message of "*Tamang Timpla*."

Q: So what is the current market share of Cosmos. And how do you intend to sustain it?

A: We have about 33 percent of the market today in the cola segment. Definitely a strong No. 2 to Coke, and, in some segments of the market, we are beating Coke already. In a recent usage, attitude, image study we just conducted, we were amazed to see the results.

CONCEPCION: We were really targeting Pepsi.

Our top-of-mind awareness level has gone up to 37 percent from a level lower than 30 percent a few months back.

Brand usage in terms of "Ever Tried" and "Used Most Often" likewise zoomed up to the same levels as the leading brand. We have the momentum and we will keep on increasing our marketing support and continue in giving our consumers a great product.

Q: Why is there a run-up in the stock price of Cosmos? They say it is because Cosmos is in play.

A: I will not deny that there is interest in Cosmos. As I mentioned before, a lot of people are interested in Cosmos. But this is the future our group wants to focus on and build. There must be a compelling reason for us to shift away from this vision of ours. There are very few gems left in Philippine business today.

Q: What about Pepsi, are you interested in this company?

A: We have always been interested, but we must be careful since Pepsi for the last number of years have not been doing very well that that their current business model for the Philippines must change for us to really see value here.

But, yes, it makes sense for both Pepsi and Cosmos to come together and integrate its operations and market share, but it must make economical sense for the Cosmos shareholders.

DBS seeks to become major Asian player

SINGAPORE—DBS Group Holdings' bid to take over smaller Singapore rival Overseas Union Bank would, if successful, give it sufficient weight to become a major player in Asia, a top DBS executive said in a report Monday.

That was the rationale behind the group's S$9.4-billion ($5.2-billion) cash and share takeover bid for OUB, president Jackson Tai told the Business Times.

"In any business you are in, you got to be among the top. Otherwise, you get the crumbs," he said.

"With this transaction, we can be among the top five banks in Asia, ex-Japan, ex-Australia. That's important," Tai said.

"It is about being a vibrant bank in the whole of Asia. We got to have influence in what goes on in the financial markets in Asia," he added.

DBS Bank, the group's banking unit, would become the third largest commercial bank in the region outside Japan and Australia if the bid was successful.

It is already Southeast Asia's biggest bank in terms of assets.

The financial group already has a presence in several countries including the Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia and Hong Kong.

"We are betting on Asia. Asia will have its ups and downs. You need diversification, which we hope to build over time," Tai said.

DBS Group's bid announced last Friday came just a week after Oversea-Chinese Bank Corp. launched a S$3-billion ($1.6 billion) bid for Keppel TatLee Bank, the smallest of five banks in the city-state.

The government has been urging consolidation within the banking sector and has said the tiny domestic market of four million people can only accommodate two or three large domestic banks. *AFP*

Fed seen cutting interest rates again

WASHINGTON—There is little doubt that the Federal Reserve, faced with an economy that has moved into the slow lane, will cut US interest rates at its policy meeting this week.

But debate has erupted over whether the central bank will take its foot off the gas a bit and trim rates only slightly or put the pedal to the metal with its sixth aggressive rate cut this year.

Responding to a rapid erosion in the health of the US economy, the Fed has cut interest rates five times since January, each time by a half-percentage point.

The key fed funds rate, which influences borrowing costs for everything from credit cards to home mortgages, is at 4 percent, its lowest level in seven years.

Now, with gloomy data still rolling in even after all the cuts, some Fed watchers are calling for another half-point cut to steer the economy around recession territory.

Others say that with a tax rebate in the pipeline and the full effect of the Fed's prior moves yet to be felt, US central bankers should trim rates by a quarter-percentage point and wait to see if enough has been done to turn around the world's largest economy.

Economists believe monetary policy operates with a lag of approximately six to nine months. The Fed's first action was in the beginning of January.

"I think they have been very aggressive and they really haven't given it any time to work on the economy," said Dan Laufenberg, chief economist at American Express Financial Advisors. "Everyone talks about the lagged response on monetary policy, but nobody seems patient enough to wait to see that happen."

The Fed's decision is expected at the end of its two-day meeting on Wednesday. Fed meetings usually only take one day, but policymakers meet twice a year to reassess the economic outlook ahead of Chair Alan Greenspan's twice-yearly testimony on Capitol Hill.

Greenspan is expected to testify before Congress sometime next month.

Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill said on Sunday that he still did not expect the US economy to sink into recession, noting that rate cuts had not yet had their full impact.

Asked on ABC's "This Week" whether he still believed the economy would avoid a recession, O'Neill replied: "Well, so far, I think that's where we are, yes.

"If you look at the history of rate cuts and their effect on the economy, it's not unusual for there to be maybe a six-month lag before you see any effect on the general economy," he said.

While it was "easy to find gloom and doom," consumers were "hanging in there," and spending rates "are still quite good," O'Neill said. The contraction had been in the investment sector where there had been an overexpansion, he added.

Economists on both sides of the quarter-point/half-point debate agree that the Fed's move this month is a tough call.

Those arguing for a half-point cut note that the Fed does not have another meeting scheduled for nearly two months. After lowering rates twice this year between regular meetings, the Fed will be reluctant to make another inter-meeting cut. It does not want to spook investors and consumers or turn what is usually saved for rare circumstances into something commonplace, analysts said.

Others said recent data had been so gloomy that the Fed needed to inject more life into the economy in the form of interest rate cuts. "The economic data just seem to be growing more worrisome," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Economy.com.

The employment picture continued to deteriorate, with some companies moving to a second round of layoffs. The unemployment rate reached 4.4 percent in May, well off the lows of 3.9 percent reached last year.

Further, the manufacturing sector, which has been hardest-hit by the slowdown, continues to sink. And growth in retail sales, a key factor since consumer spending fuels two-thirds of US economic activity, has slowed to a crawl.

But those in the quarter-point camp think there is a lot to be optimistic about. Tax rebates passed by Congress late last month will start hitting mailboxes this summer and will likely spark an upswing in spending. Gasoline prices are coming down, giving consumers more money to spend.

And inventories of goods are being reduced, which should lead to a boost in factory output in the near future. The Fed already has done a lot this year, they say.

"There's an awful lot in the pipeline already," noted AG Edwards chief economist Gary Thayer.

Support for a half-point cut has risen in recent weeks, according to a Reuters polls of primary dealers of US government securities and trading in fed funds futures, which is considered a measure of expectations of Fed moves. *Reuters*

Phone firms ring up robust handset sales

NTT DoCoMo employee Junko Miyazaki poses for a colleague who is videotaping her image with the third generation cell phone "FOMA" at the Japanese cell phone company's showroom in Tokyo. The 3G model promises to relay video and eventually allow music downloads zip data up to 40 times faster than current mobile phones. AP

SINGAPORE—Asia appears to have escaped the fall-off in mobile handset demand in Europe and the United States, thanks to low cellular penetration rates and a huge appetite for new technology.

Telecom operators said while regional handset demand eased in line with slowing Asian economies, overall sales remained relatively robust.

Laurens Bulters, director of operations at Indonesian cellular operator PT Telkomsel, told Reuters the company had seen "exponential" sales growth.

"We remain very optimistic about prospects in the Asia-Pacific due to relatively low penetration rates in countries like Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia and the Philippines. Asia-Pacific remains separate from the US and Europe," he said.

The disparity was also due to the fact that infrastructure spending in developing markets like China was still in its infancy, said Ted Dean, managing director of BDA China Ltd., a Beijing-based telecoms consulting firm.

"Operators like China Mobile and China Unicom are still increasing their capital expenditure on their networks and, as a result, there is still a lot room for equipment vendors to sell on the handset side," Dean said.

"China's business cycle in mobile communications is not in sync with the rest of the world. While the rest of the world has overspent on their networks, China has not hit that point yet."

Even Swedish telecoms equipment maker Ericsson, grappling with losses from its mobile phone operations, struck a bullish note on wireless demand in the region.

"We expect Asia-Pacific to be the fastest-growing market in the coming years," chief executive Kurt Hellstrom said, adding that the region chalked up 250 million mobile subscribers in 2000—a number expected to hit 550 million by 2004.

In the more mature markets of Hong Kong and Singapore, tech-savvy users choosing to stay connected means there is a ready appetite for technology upgrades that, in turn, drives handset demand.

"Mobile is a way of life in Hong Kong," said Charles Henshaw, chief executive of mobile operator Peoples Telephone Co. Ltd. "We've seen tremendous (handset sales) growth in Hong Kong—nothing of the gloom and doom in Europe."

This demand may have eased of late, but that was largely because consumers were holding off on their purchases ahead of the release of the latest technology, Henshaw said.

"There's nothing new in the market right now—people are waiting for GPRS and when that is released in the third or fourth quarter, (handset demand) will take off again," he added.

General Packet Radio Services, a 2.5-generation network, offers high-speed data transmission and is a stepping stone to faster and more sophisticated third-generation mobile technology.

Staying connected was also a "basic need" in Singapore, said Steven Chan, director of product development at the city state's second-largest mobile operator, MobileOne (Asia).

"We see continued growth in the mobile market in Singapore from, for example, parents giving their kids cell phones so they can keep in touch with them," he said.

New technologies involving machine-to-machine communication, such as using the short service to buy a drink from a vending machine, would also spur demand, Chan added.

As for Japan, struck by the double whammy of a moribund domestic economy and high cellular penetration rates of more than 60 percent, strong handset sales were still a reality, said Japan's largest mobile phone operator, NTT DoCoMo Inc.

"Penetration ratios and handset sales volumes are not necessarily 100-percent related," Takeshi Natsuno, executive director of DoCoMo's Gateway Business Department, told Reuters.

"In Japan, penetration rates are already very high but we still have a lot of demand for new phones because the technological improvements for handsets are growing very rapidly."

But technology will not be the buffer for every operator's bottom line, as creating value for the end user is more critical.

"You need to prove the real benefit of your services to end users. You must know what sort of marketing approach will work, and know how to set up relationships with content providers," Natsuno said.

"All these are in a sense irrelevant to the technology, which is important as a factor, but is not everything. And as long as you can create real value to consumers, you don't have to worry about the economic situation." *Reuters*

Vietnam seen buying 5 Airbuses

HANOI—Vietnam's national carrier, Vietnam Airlines, said Monday that it intended to buy five narrow-body Airbus airliners as part of a five-year plan to expand its fleet.

Nguyen Xuan Hien, general director of the state-run airline, told Reuters negotiations on the terms would start soon.

They would be Vietnam's first-ever Airbus purchases.

"The purchase has been approved by the government in the plan to develop the fleet up to 2005," Hien said. "We are inviting our partner (Airbus) to come for negotiations."

He said the Airbus types could be the A319, A320 or A321, depending on prices offered. Vietnam Airlines already operates Airbuses, but all those in its current fleet are leased.

Airbus is a partnership of European Aeronautic Defense & Space Co. NV and BAE Systems Plc.

The 124-passenger Airbus A319 has a list price of $45 million; the 150-passenger A320, $50 million; and the 185-passenger A321, $60 million.

The short-to-medium ranged aircraft can be powered by engines from CFM International or International Aero Engines.

The former is a joint venture between General Electric and France's state-owned Snecma, while the latter involves United Technologies unit Pratt & Whitney and Rolls Royce. *Reuters*

EU body holds crunch meeting on GE

BRUSSELS—A European Union committee met on Monday to consider whether General Electric Co. should be allowed to buy Honeywell International Inc., in a competition review that has drawn sharp US criticism.

US regulators have already approved the $42-billion deal, but EU officials are worried that the combined company will dominate the avionics and jet engine fields, depriving rivals of the income they need to develop new products.

Monday's advisory committee meeting—attended by representatives of the 15 EU countries and members of a merger task force—was charged with making a recommendation on the deal ahead of a July 3 vote by the full European Commission. The commission is the European Union's executive arm.

Many involved in the process said they believed the European Union would block the deal, and analysts said the recommendation of Monday's meeting was likely to be negative.

European officials have faced a barrage of criticism from US officials—including President Bush, members of his Cabinet and members of Congress.

EU Competition Commissioner Mario Monti said the commission would ignore what he called attempts at political intervention.

The countries were weighing a 122-page draft decision by the task force that sources said recommended rejection of the deal, along with GE's own final offer of remedies.

GE has offered to sell Honeywell avionics assets that generate $2.2 billion annually and to place some restrictions on GE Capital Aviation Services, which buys, sells and leases airliners.

GE has said that its offer falls short of what the European Commission says it needs.

But late last week, a GE spokesperson said the company remained committed to the deal and said its representatives had been meeting with EU countries to explain why they believe GE's final offer meets Commission concerns.

Honeywell shares have taken a beating as hopes for the deal faded. The stock closed at $36.60, down 15 cents, on the New York Stock Exchange on Friday. GE, which has offered 1.055 of its own shares for every Honeywell share, rose 61 cents to $51.86.

A source said the meeting itself would devote only the morning session to GE and that another matter was to be taken up in the afternoon.

That, along with the fact that member countries have been inundated with information in recent days and some have expressed doubts about the task force's view, raised the possibility that the advisory committee might need a second day before voting.

Nonetheless, few doubted that the advisory committee would eventually back the merger task force in opposing acceptance of the GE proposal. *Reuters*

COUNTRY SHARES
As of June 26, 2001

	BUYING	SELLING
ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB A/B*	1.9M/2.1M*	Pls. call/Pls. Call*
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	790,000	800,000
CAMP JOHN HAY	350,000	375,000
CANYON WOODS	-	Pls. Call
CAPITOL HILLS	130,000	-
CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	210,000	215,000
CLUB FILIPINO	-	300,000
EAGLE RIDGE A/B*/C**	425,000	450,000*/700,000**
EASTRIDGE A	-	200,000
EVERCREST A/B*	130,000*	150,000/170,000*
FONTANA B/C*/D**	88,000/120,000*	90,000/150,000*/280,000**
FOREST HILLS A/B*/C**	- -	280,000/350,000*/450,000**
LUISITA GOLF CLUB	-	Pls. Call
MAKATI SPORTS A/B*	395,000/450,000*	400,000/455,000*
MT. MALARAYAT A/C* (w/lot)**	395,000	400,000/650,000*/2.0 M**
MANILA POLO CLUB	3,600,000	3,800,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A/B*	-	650,000/975,000*
METROPOLITAN A/B*	-	175,000/180,000*
MIMOSA IND./CORP.*	200,000/350,000*	240,000/550,000*
ORCHARD A/B*/C**	600,000**	280,000/125,000*
PHILIPPINE COLUMBIAN	85,000	90,000
PUERTO AZUL A/B*	150,000	Pls. call*
QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	225,000	230,000
RIVIERA A/B*	-	280,000/400,000*
ROCKWELL CLUB	600,000	650,000
ROYALE TAGAYTAY A/B*	100,000	120,000/150,000*
SHERWOOD HILLS A/B*/C**	250,000	275,000/350,000*/450,000**
SUBIC BAY IND/CORP.*	300,000/400,000*	PLS. CALL
TAT FILIPINAS GOLF A/B*	320,000	350,000/550,000*
TAGAYTAY H-LANDS CC/GOLF*	-	450,000/1.0 M*
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	800,000	850,000
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4. CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"		100,000
5. CAMP JOHN HAY	400,000	350,000
6. CANLUBANG GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	950,000	850,000
7. CAPITOL HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	150,000	130,000
8. CELEBRITY CLUB	210,000	
9. COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	450,000	400,000
10. CLUB FILIPINO	280,000	
11. EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	220,000	
12. EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	425,000	
13. EVERCREST GOLF CLUB "A"		100,000
14. FAIRWAYS & BLUEWATER	Pls Call	Pls Call
15. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	250,000	230,000
16. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	550,000	
17. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	600,000	
18 MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	400,000	
19 MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	450,000	
20 MANILA GOLF CLUB (IND.)	15,500,000	
21 MANILA POLO CLUB	3,900,000	3,500,000
22 MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"	850,000	
23 MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	950,000	
24 MANILA YACHT CLUB	650,000	
25. METROPOLITAN CLUB "A"	180,000	
26. METROPOLITAN CLUB "B"	200,000	160,000
27. MT MALARAYAT GOLF CLUB (IND.)	400,000	
28. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	280,000	260,000
29. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	400,000	
30. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	600,000	550,000
31. PUERTO AZUL BEACH CLUB "B"	200,000	140,000
32. QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	240,000	
33. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	250,000	
34 RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	600,000	500,000
35 ROYAL NORTHWOODS	Pls Call	Pls Call
36. STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	200,000	160,000
37 SUBIC BAY YACHT CLUB (IND)	500,000	
38. TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS INT'L. GOLF CLUB	1,000,000	950,000
39. TAGAYTAY MIDLAND	850,000	
40. VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB	195,000	175,000
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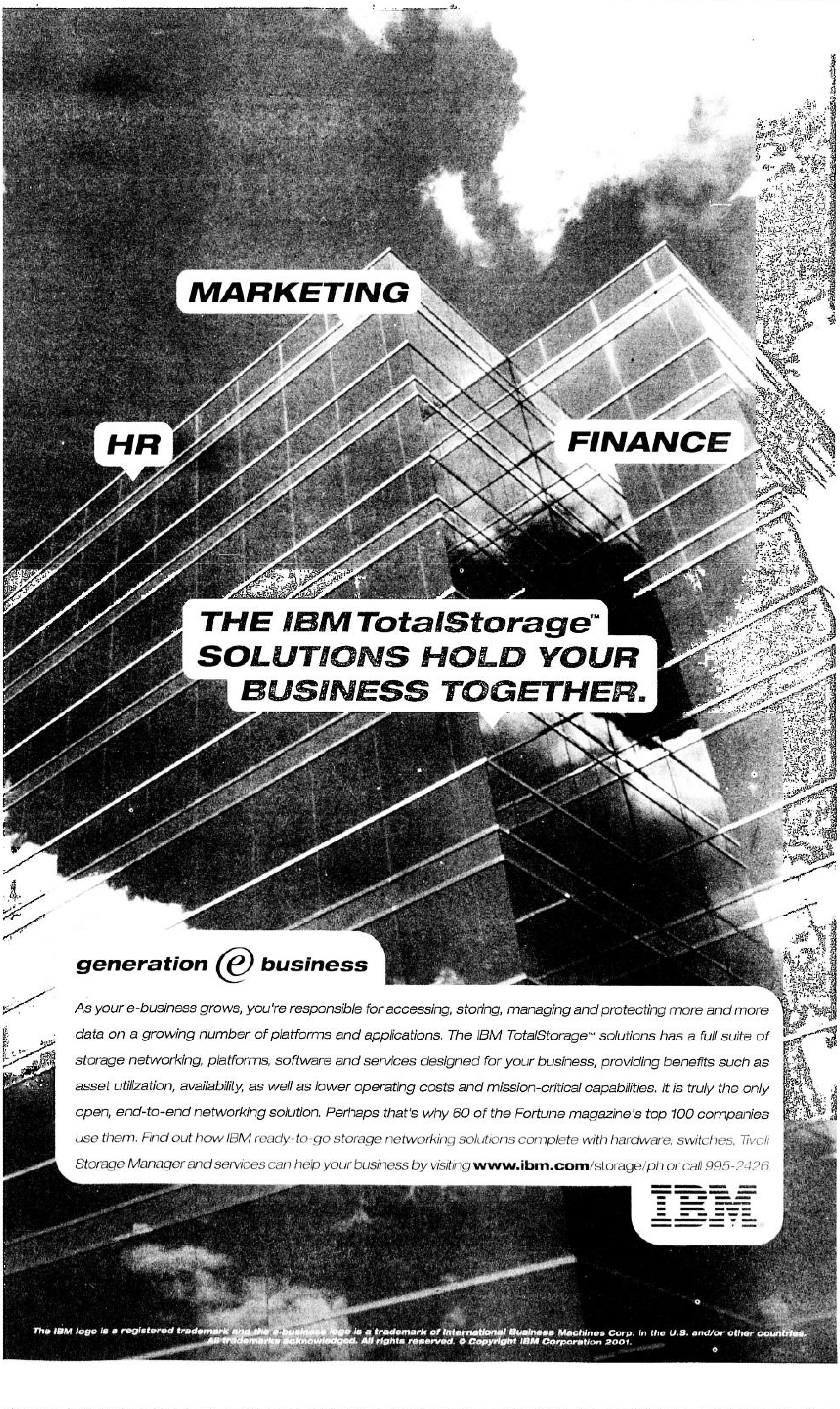
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AUCTION SALE

Jecaro Pawnshop Bonifacio St. Sta. Cruz Laguna will sell all expired pledges on June 27, 2001 10:00AM V. Zamora Jr. Auctioneer

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late CORAZON S. CAMAYA has been extrajudicially settled by her heirs on Dec. 4, 2000 under Doc.#499 Page#101 Book#XXXIX Series 2000 Before Notary Public Arturo A. Dimain of Pasig City PDI June 12, 19, 26, 2001

BIDDING

Make 3 Wishes 1 Business 2 Impossible Pray 9 Hail Mary's for 9 days on the 9th day put oput this ad & your wishes will come true. TY Holy Spirit & Sacred Heart of Jesus - LNG

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TUGBOATS: One (1) operating condition - 149.65 GRT, Niigata single main engine, 700 BHP; One (1) non-operating - 44.48 GRT, GM-Detroit twin main engines, 2x230 BHP.

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(PDI – June 24, 25 & 26, 2001)

INQUIRER TRiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Doggone taxman

Q. How did the Doberman pinscher get its name?

A. From Ludwig Dobermann, a German tax collector by day and watchman by night. Aware of the unpopularity of his daytime job and the risks of his evening work, Dobermann, of Apolda in Thuringia (a south-central German region), developed in the 1880s a particularly fierce breed to help him in his rounds. Pinscher, on the other hand, is the name of a type of terrier that originated in Pinzgau, a district in Austria. Today Dobermans are widely used as guard dogs.

A Friendly Reminder. Although a dog bite may look more serious, a cat bite is more dangerous -- there are more bacteria in a cat's mouth. Wash a dog or cat bite with soap and water, rinse in running water for at least 15 minutes, and cover with a dressing or a clean cloth. Try not to move the affected area until the bite has been treated by a doctor. By the way, rabies can be transmitted if a rabid animal licks on open wound. Because the disease is fatal unless treatment begins at once, it's important to identify the source of the bite.

Classified Odd. On June 3, 1994 police in Quesnel, British Columbia, Canada, arrested Leon Hetu, 50, after he used a bulldozer to tear down the house of his girlfriend, Mildred Stychyshyn. She explained that Hetu, an unemployed bulldozer operator, became angry when she refused to let him in because he was drunk. Two months earlier, Hetu had attacked her house with a bulldozer, taking off the corner where her master bedroom had been.

WORD WATCH

Perwisyo : from the Spanish *perjuico*, 'harm, damage, prejudice.'

PDI – June 26, 2001

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In Loving Memory
on the First Death Anniversary
of

EPIFANIO A. TAGUIANG

who passed away on June 27, 2000

Masses will be offered on June 27 at the following churches:

Parish of the Holy Sacrifice, UP	6:00 AM
Parish of the Lord of Divine Mercy Sikatuna Village, Quezon City	6:00 AM
Parish of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary West Triangle, Quezon City	6:30 AM
Sto. Niño de Paz, Greenbelt	7:15 AM
St. Joseph Shrine, Aurora Boulevard	12:00 NN
St. Vincent de Paul Parish San Marcelino, Manila	12:10 PM
Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish U.P. Village, Quezon City	6:00 PM

May we request readers for prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

Manuel Castañeda Barreiro

July 5, 1923 - June 23, 2001
peacefully joined our Creator at the age of 77.

His wife NINFA†, children and daughters-in-law WILLIE & MONETTE, RICKY & TESS, VIC & ME-AN, CHUCK & B.J. and PAULINE JOY; grandchildren RITA, NIÑO†, MARK, PAOLO and KRISTINA; brothers and sisters GUADALUPE, ALFREDO JR., SR. IRENE, I.C.M., JOSE†, JESUS and ANTONIO† request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at
A3 South Wing, Funeraria Paz, Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

There will be a mass on Thursday, June 28, 2001, 8:00 a.m. at the Mary the Queen Parish Church, San Juan, M.M., to be followed by the interment at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque

---

Alicia Marquez - Lim Coseteng

Former Philippine Ambassador to Mexico
Former Professor, Institute of Mass Communications - University of the Philippines Diliman
Chairperson, President and Principal - Diliman Preparatory School
Loving and Beloved Mother

Has joined her husband Emerson (†) on June 22, 2001 and is now with the Creator.

We, her bereaved children Senator Anna Dominique (Nikki) Coseteng, Ma. Althea (Leah) and Eduard dela Rama, Eduardo Jose (Jody), Judith Antoine (Tonet) and Bonifacio Hilario Jr., and Espiridion Adrian (Perry); and grandchildren Julian and Kimberly, Jody and Joey, Kristine Francesca and Kayla Anne, Eloise, Dino and Anthony;

together with

Her brothers and sisters, Norma and Manuel(†) Jalandoni, Jose Jr. and Blanca Marquez-Lim, Marietta and James Sumcad, Eduardo and Teresita (†) Marquez-Lim, Sylvia and Julio Orozco, Vilma and Francis Poblador, Milagros and Rodolfo (†) Tanchanco;

and

Her brother-in-law and sister-in-law Edison and Regina Coseteng;

Her uncles and aunts, nephews and nieces, cousins, other relatives and friends request for prayers for her eternal repose.

Her mortal remains are at the Mt. Carmel Church. Final Mass will be held at 9:00 AM on June 26, Tuesday. Cremation will follow at 1:00 PM at the Funeraria Paz Crematorium, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

Please omit flowers.

In lieu of flowers, a donation to the Diliman Foundation, Inc. c/o Diliman Preparatory School, Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City, will be appreciated.

"Surely goodness and love will follow me all of the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." (Psalm 23:6)

We, the family of the late

SRA. AMPARO FRANCISCO DALIDA

of Vinzons, Camarines Norte
who passed away in the Grace of our Lord on June 19, 2001

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all who sympathized with us in the hour of our deepest sorrow.

God Bless You All.

WE DESIGN OBITUARIES FOR FREE.

Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again.

2 Cor. 5:4-5

The family of the late

JUDGE AGAPITO I. CRUZ

who passed away on June 24, 2001 at the age of 87.

Wishes to inform relatives and friends that his body lies in state at Chapel 4, La Funeraria Paz, Inc., G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, June 30, 2001 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the 8:30 a.m. Mass at Funeraria Paz.

"Lift up your heart and share with me.
God wanted me now, He set me free."

AUDELIO G. AGNE

Now peacefully joined our God and Maker
in our heavenly home on 22 June 2001 at the age of 67.

His beloved wife Sonia A. Agne; son Bobby and daughter Mae; sisters Betty and Alta; brothers Claudio and Gerald; family members, colleagues and friends ask to please pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Chapel-B7, La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on the 27th of June 2001 at the Eternal Gardens Memorial Park, Balintawak.

In Loving Memory of the
Fifth Death Anniversary of

Federico E. Amurao

(April 24, 1918—June 26, 1996)
of the City of San Fernando, Pampanga

Holy Mass will be offered at the following churches:

Parish of the Blessed Trinity *Pilar Village, San Fernando, Pampanga*	*June 24-26, 2001* *6:00 A.M*
Metropolitan Cathedral *San Fernando, Pampanga*	*June 24-26, 2001* *7:00 A.M*
Santisimo Rosario Parish *U S T, España*	*June 26, 2001* *7:00 A.M*
Shrine of Our Lady of Manaoag *Manaoag, Pangasinan*	*June 22, 2001* *7:00 A.M*

How I wish you could have been with me longer, Daddy

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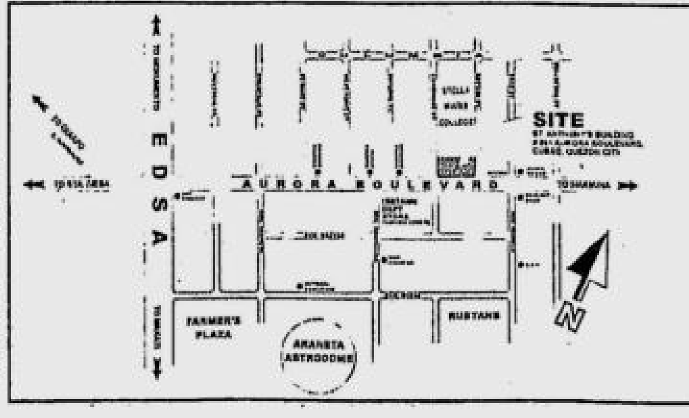
Tels. 749-3679; 781-1772

ST. PETER FUNERAL HOMES
296 Quezon Ave., Quezon City
Tels. 372-5084; 410-9286 / 87

VERONICA MEMORIAL HOMES
Official NBI Morgue, 517-A Arnaiz St., Pasay City
Tels. 831-3797; 844-7846; 843-1801; 845-4836



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PNOC PETROCHEMICAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
(A WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY)

11/F. BA Lepanto Building
8747 Paseo de Roxas
1227 Makati City, Philippines
Tel No. (02) 841-0644
Telefax No. (02) 810-8418
Brgy. Batangas Dos
Mariveles, Bataan
Tel No. (047) 244-7441
Telefax No. (047) 244-6583

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION / ELIGIBILITY AND BIDDING

The PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation (PPDC) invites interested contractors currently accredited with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) in good standing to apply for qualification/eligibility and if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the following project described below:

I.	Work Order No.	WSC-00-043
II.	Project Title	PPDC Main Entrance Upgrading
III.	Scope of Work	Main Entrance Upgrading, Const. of Security Guards Facilities, Removal of Existing Canal, Sidewalk, Curbs and Gutters and Relocation of Existing Road Lighting and Electrical Distribution System
IV.	Project Location	Petrochemical Industrial Estate (PIE) in Limay and Mariveles, Bataan, Philippines
V.	Approved Budget	Pesos Eight Million Two Hundred Ninety Seven Thousand Four Hundred Sixty Nine and 10/100 (P8,297,469.10)
VI.	Source of Funding	PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation
VII.	Estimated Contract Duration	One Hundred Eighty (180) Calendar Days
VIII.	PCAB License Minimum Requirement	
	Classification	Medium A
	Category	Road, Highway Pavement, Horizontal Structures and Bridges/ Building and Industrial Plant
IX.	Similar Contracts	Construction of Roads, Highway Pavement of Subdivisions, Villages to include Drainage Systems and Entrance Gates
X.	Credit Line / Cash Deposit Certificate Requirement	Pesos Eight Hundred Twenty Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Six & 91/100 (P829,746.91)
XI.	Eligibility Statement Forms	One (1) set each to be filled up and submitted for every project
	Cost of Forms	One Hundred Pesos per set (P100.00/set)
	Date and Time of Issuance	June 20 to July 03, 2001 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
	Place of Issuance and Submission of Accomplished Eligibility / Statements Documents	PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation 11th Floor, B. A. Lepanto Building, 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City c/o Legal, Contracts and Administration Department or PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation Petrochem Park, Batangas Dos, Mariveles, Bataan c/o Site Administration Department
	Deadline of Submission	On or before July 10, 2001 at 3:00 p.m.
XII.	Notice of Eligibility/Ineligibility	
	Date and Time of Issuance	July 02 - 30, 2001 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
	Place of Issuance	PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation 11th Floor, B. A. Lepanto Building, 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City c/o Legal, Contracts and Administration Department
XIII.	Pre-bid Conference	
	Date and Time	August 23, 2001 at 9:30 a.m.
	Venue	PPDC Conference Room PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation Petrochem Park, Batangas Dos, Mariveles, Bataan c/o Site Administration
XIV.	Bid/Tender Documents	Shall be issued only to eligible contractors upon payment of the non-refundable cost of the documents
	Cost of Documents	One Thousand Pesos per set (P1,000.00/set)
	Date and Time of Issuance	July 31 to August 14, 2001 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
	Place of Issuance	PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation 11th Floor, B. A. Lepanto Building, 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City c/o Legal, Contracts and Administration Department or PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation Petrochem Park, Batangas Dos, Mariveles, Bataan c/o Site Administration Department
	Deadline of Submission	On or before September 14, 2001 at 2:00 p.m.
	Place of Submission	PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation 11th Floor, B. A. Lepanto Building, 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City c/o Legal, Contracts and Administration Department

XV. **BID OPENING IN THE SAME VENUE WILL FOLLOW IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE DEADLINE OF SUBMISSION OF BIDS. LATE BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

Prospective bidders are required to submit original copy of Credit Line / Cash Deposit Certificate/s and original copies of pertinent documents such as Contractor's PCAB License, audited Financial Statements, etc. for verification/ authentication purposes.

All particulars relative to pre-qualification / eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of PD 1594 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, as amended, and other applicable rules and regulations.

PPDC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any defect or informality therein, or accept such bid or award any part thereof to any bidder/s whose bid/s is/are considered most advantageous to PPDC. PPDC further assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that may incur in the preparation of their bids nor does it guarantee that an award will be made

(Sgd.) VICTORIO MARIO A. DIMAGIBA
BAC - Chairman

(PDI - June 21, 26 & 30, 2001)

PNOC PETROCHEMICAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
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INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION / ELIGIBILITY AND BIDDING

The PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation (PPDC) invites interested contractors currently accredited with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) in good standing to apply for qualification/eligibility and if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the following project described below:

I	Work Order No.	WSC-00-012
II.	Project Title	Construction of PPDC Fire Station and Motorpool
III.	Scope of Work	Construction of PPDC Fire Station and Motorpool
IV.	Project Location	Petrochemical Industrial Estate (PIE) in Limay and Mariveles, Bataan, Philippines
V.	Approved Budget	Pesos Nine Million Sixteen Thousand Five Hundred Twenty Eight and 98/100 (P9,016,528.98)
VI.	Source of Funding	PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation -
VII.	Estimated Contract Duration	One Hundred Twenty (120) Calendar Days
VIII.	PCAB License Minimum Requirement	
	Classification	Medium A
	Category	Building and Industrial Plants
IX.	Similar Contracts	Construction of Buildings and Other Industrial Facilities
X.	Credit Line / Cash Deposit Certificate Requirement	Pesos Nine Hundred One Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Two & 90/100 (P901,652.90)
XI.	Eligibility Statement Forms	One (1) set each to be filled up and submitted for every project
	Cost of Forms	One Hundred Pesos per set (P100.00/set)
	Date and Time of Issuance	June 20 to July 03, 2001 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
	Place of Issuance and Submission of Accomplished Eligibility / Statements Documents	PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation 11th Floor, B. A. Lepanto Building, 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City c/o Legal, Contracts and Administration Department or PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation Petrochem Park, Batangas Dos, Mariveles, Bataan c/o Site Administration Department
	Deadline of Submission	On or before July 10, 2001 at 3:00 p.m.
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	Date and Time	August 23, 2001 at 9:30 a.m.
	Venue	PPDC Conference Room PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation Petrochem Park, Batangas Dos, Mariveles, Bataan c/o Site Administration
XIV.	Bid/Tender Documents	Shall be issued only to eligible contractors upon payment of the non-refundable cost of the documents
	Cost of Documents	One Thousand Pesos per set (P1,000.00/set)
	Date and Time of Issuance	July 31 to August 14, 2001 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
	Place of Issuance	PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation 11th Floor, B. A. Lepanto Building, 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City c/o Legal, Contracts and Administration Department or PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation Petrochem Park, Batangas Dos, Mariveles, Bataan c/o Site Administration Department
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All particulars relative to pre-qualification / eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of PD 1594 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, as amended, and other applicable rules and regulations.

PPDC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any defect or informality therein, or accept such bid or award any part thereof to any bidder/s whose bid/s is/are considered most advantageous to PPDC. PPDC further assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that may incur in the preparation of their bids nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) VICTORIO MARIO A. DIMAGIBA
BAC - Chairman

(PDI - June 21, 26 & 30, 2001)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

ILLINOIS TOOL WORKS, INC., of the USA, owner of the famous **DEVCON** and **DEVCON PLASTIC STEEL** marks for adhesives products, hereby urges the public to purchase and obtain such products from its authorized distributor:

HERCO TRADING INC.
257 Juan Luna Street, Binondo, Manila
Tel. No. 361-0828 Fax No. 364-6240

ILLINOIS TOOL WORKS, INC. has sold **DEVCON** and **DEVCON PLASTIC STEEL** products in the Philippines and many other countries for decades. To protect the consumer from imitation products and to ensure the highest quality of **DEVCON** and **DEVCON PLASTIC STEEL** products being delivered to the market, retail establishments and other dealers are urged to obtain **DEVCON** and **DEVCON PLASTIC STEEL** products only from its authorized distributor.

This is also to notify the public that Varian Enterprises with office address at 547-A Caballeros Street, Binondo, Manila has ceased to be an authorized distributor of **ILLINOIS TOOL WORKS, INC.'S DEVCON** and **DEVCON PLASTIC STEEL** products effective January 1, 2001.

As a service to the public and to protect the good name of its products, ILLINOIS TOOL WORKS, INC. is gathering evidences against those who without its authorization have been dealing in **DEVCON** and **DEVCON PLASTIC STEEL** products. Such activities may violate the rights of **ILLINOIS TOOL WORKS, INC.** and those of its authorized distributor, which rights are protected by the Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines, or R.A. 8293.

Information on **DEVCON** and **DEVCON PLASTIC STEEL** products can be obtained directly from Mr. Peter Gray, ITW Business Manager Asia, 8 Kaki Bukit Road, 2, 02-34 Singapore 417841, at telephone no. 65-746-1177, fax no. 65-746-1482, e-mail address: pgray@pacific.net.sg. Information on unauthorized use of the **DEVCON** and **DEVCON PLASTIC STEEL** marks may be given to the undersigned attorneys.

VERA LAW

V. E. DEL ROSARIO & PARTNERS
Attorneys-at-Law
Rosadel Building, 1011 Metropolitan Avenue
Makati City
Tel. No. 899-6724 • Fax No. 899-6653

(PDI - June 26, 2001)

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8 US educators to give seminars

EIGHT prominent educators from seven elite American colleges and universities will be featured in a seminar and exhibition on educational prospects in the United States on June 29, 6 to 9 p.m., at the SGV Ballroom, AIM Acceed Center, Greenbelt, Makati City. Mervyn Fishback, former president of Biola University in the United States, will conduct the seminar and exhibition which will be followed on June 30, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. by interview sessions by the visiting American admission directors with students who attended the seminar or have serious plans to study in the United States. The interviews will be held at the electronic library of AIM Acceed Center. Helen U. Bartholomew, founder of International Education Specialists, said that the seminar will provide parents and students relevant information on admission requirements and programs of the participating American schools. For reservations and further inquiries, call Inter-Ed at 819-1001, 819-1002, cell no. 0917-2032821or email intered@info.com.ph., or visit www.inter-ed.com.

Republika ng Pilipinas
Republic of the Philippines
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON, KULTURA AT ISPORTS
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS
DECS Complex, Meralco Avenue
Pasig City, Philippines

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION (SECOND CALL)

Notice is hereby given that the Department of Education, Culture and Sports will sell one (1) unit of 2000 FORD EXPEDITION XLT, 4x4, 8 cylinder, color black located at DECS Motorpool, ULTRA Complex, Pasig City thru sealed bids to be received by the Committee not later than 2:00 PM on July 10, 2001 at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Building I, ULTRA Complex, Pasig City.

Notice is hereby given that this is a second call because the result of the First Auction was not acceptable to the Department.

Interested parties may inspect the unit at the DECS Motorpool starting June 26, 2001 until July 9, 2001.

Forms and further information may be obtained from the BAC Secretariat, Room 112-A Mabini Building, ULTRA Complex, Pasig City with telephone nos. 636-6543, 633-9343.

BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defect contained thereto and accept the bids most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) ERNESTO S. PANGAN
Undersecretary
Chairman, DECS-BAC

(PDI -- June 26 & 27, 2001)

All AsiaLife sales group promotions

VICTOR P. Quisumbing, All AsiaLife president and CEO recently announced the promotion of two of its top sales managers in a gathering of the company's top insurance consultants and sales managers in Makati.

Promoted to vice president for Metro Manila sales is Leslie Ann del Rosario, All AsiaLife's most successful sales manager awardee and the undisputed top sales manager since the company started operation six years ago. She used to occupy the position of division managing director handling four regional managing directors and hundreds of agency manager and insurance consultants within Metro Manila and the nearby provinces. Hew new appointment will help consolidates All AsiaLife's operation in the Metro Areas as well as assist the SVP for sales in day to day operation. Leslie is a former officer and trustee of the Life Underwriters Association of the Philippines.

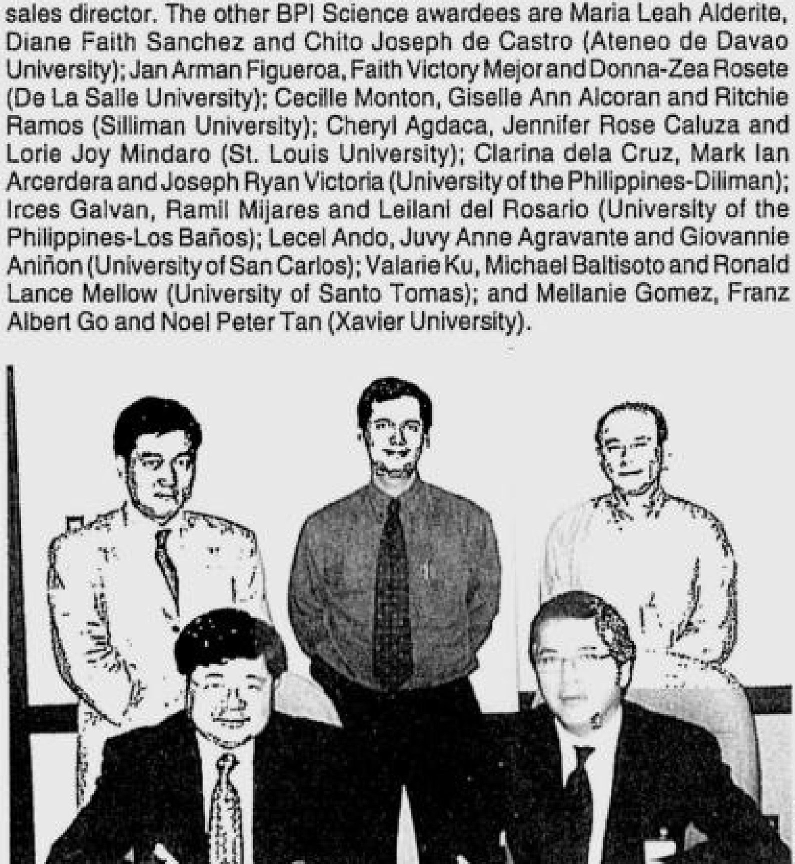
Also promoted to assistance vice president is Eliezer "Embeng" Dayanghirang, the company's top regional manager is 2000 from the Eagle Region in Davao. He will now be assisting the SVP for sales in consolidating the operations in Mindanao particularly the Northern and Southern Mindanao. currently, the company has two big operations in the area with sales headquarters in Cagayan de Oro and Davao City. With the promotion, All AsiaLife hopes to continue its market expansion in General Santos City, Bukidnon, Davao del Norte and the other areas in Mindanao. Embeng is the current president of the Lua-P, Davao Chapter.

PadalaRegalo.com launch

CYBERSPACE Inc. will hold the formal launching of its own online shopping mall, PadalaRegalo.com. This will be held during the E-Services Philippines And Outsourcing and Sub-Con Exhibition at the Philippine Trade Training Center from June 28 to 30. PadalaRegalo.com will allow overseas Filipinos to enjoy the ease, convenience and speed of online shopping. Those in the United States or Canada, Europe, the Middle East, Hong Kong, Singapore or Japan, simply have to visit the PadalaRegalo.com website, choose the items they want to buy, pay with their credit cards and the items will be delivered to their designated recipients in the Philippines. Interested parties can visit Booth 15 during the said event. Further inquiries can be addressed to Cyberspace Inc., P/H Padilla Building, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City or call 637-2775 to 78, fax 637-2776 or email Cyberspace at customerservice@padalaregalo.com.ph.

BPI SCIENCE AWARDEE

The BPI Science Awards recently honored this year's recipients from the Ateneo de Manila University (AdMU). The awardees are Roselle Ambubuyog (BS Math), Lito dela Rama (BS Chemistry) and Paul Ignatius Echeverria (BS Computer Science). In photo are (from left) Veronica Tapia-Merk, BPI VP-corporate communications and BPI Foundation executive director; Roselle Ambubuyog; Fr. Bienvenido Nebres S.J., AdMU president; Tess Soriano, BPI VP; and Bobby Bautista, BPI AVP and Quezon City area sales director. The other BPI Science awardees are Maria Leah Alderite, Diane Faith Sanchez and Chito Joseph de Castro (Ateneo de Davao University); Jan Arman Figueroa, Faith Victory Mejor and Donna-Zea Rosete (De La Salle University); Cecille Monton, Giselle Ann Alcoran and Ritchie Ramos (Silliman University); Cheryl Agdaca, Jennifer Rose Caluza and Lorie Joy Mindaro (St. Louis University); Clarina dela Cruz, Mark Ian Arcerdera and Joseph Ryan Victoria (University of the Philippines-Diliman); Irces Galvan, Ramil Mijares and Leilani del Rosario (University of the Philippines-Los Baños); Lecel Ando, Juvy Anne Agravante and Giovannie Aniñon (University of San Carlos); Valarie Ku, Michael Baltisoto and Ronald Lance Mellow (University of Santo Tomas); and Mellanie Gomez, Franz Albert Go and Noel Peter Tan (Xavier University).



BOOST TO RP E-COMMERCE

Mitsui & Co., Ltd., Japan's leading trading house, and Access Manila, the parent company of e-2-door.com, the Philippines' first and only online procurement and delivery service, recently signed a shareholding agreement for the subscription of Access' shares. Representatives from both Mitsui & Co. Ltd. and Access Manila were present during the contract signing. Photo shows (standing from left) Yasuhiro Kuronaga, machinery division manager of Mitsui; Monchu Garcia, e-2-door.com president; Antonio O. Olbes, Access Manila president. Seated from left are Fumiaki Sugiyama, machinery division general manager, Mitsui and Leo Alejandrino, Access Manila chair.

De Venecia's pro-housing stance is a 'Big Plus'

BY CHARLIE V. GORAYEB
(National President, Chamber of Real Estate & Builders Associations)

IT'S farthest from Creba's mind to get embroiled in whatever controversy is brewing over the speakership issue in the House of Representatives. But, on the other hand, with the problem of homelessness looming large on our agenda, we can only recall and appreciate the pro-housing stance, call it bias, of former Speaker Jose de Venecia during his incumbency under a previous administration. It so happens that this time around, he is again aspiring for the top House post.

Look at two pieces of legislation, now virtually landmark pieces of legislation, that were enacted during De Venecia's tenure as the chamber's top honcho a few years back. These were the Comprehensive Integrated Shelter Financing Act and the amendment to the charter of the Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-Ibig Fund), which restored its mandatory coverage and strengthened the pension fund's capability to assist in the provision of housing to its low- and middle-income members. These laws were at the time a big help in the government's effort to cope with the increasing national backlog of housing units.

Congressman De Venecia isn't claiming authorship of those laws that sought to boost housing development, especially for the homeless underprivileged families. But, as Speaker, De Venecia certainly did a no mean job to ensure their passage in an environment of conflicting and competing interests. And we are sure that these were not the only matters that he worked hard for. De Venecia was concerned, we remember, with urban development and minimizing mass poverty in the country. The spate of laws that came out of Congress then focused on political, social and economic development, but he didn't crow aloud about them, as would be customary for politicians.

Now comes Mr. De Venecia preaching about what he called "An Anti-Poverty Action Plan" which he says seeks to revive economic recovery and envisions a 7 percent economic growth for the next seven years. He said the action plan aims to concentrate on fighting mass poverty and enable millions of Filipinos to cross over into the middle class by the year 2010.

De Venecia's action plan recalls his effort in 1992 when, as a first-time speaker, he led the House in enacting political and economic reform measures under the Ramos administration to alter the country's image as the "Sick Man of Asia." Many will agree that, again, the Philippines is "a sick man," hounded by a host of ills. At present, De Venecia, a *trapo* politician to his enemies and ill-wishers, is at it again, rolling up his sleeves and coming up with an action plan to help the Macapagal administration in alleviating mass poverty. It somehow shows the kind of man he is.

Above all else, however, it's his pro-housing advocacy that has caught our attention and drawn our admiration. He is proposing a housing finance program that will make it possible to produce some 400,000 housing units yearly as a measure of effectively coping with the increasing backlog of units. For he knows only too well the impact of housing development not only as a means of responding to the shelter needs of the great majority of the populace, but also as a growth impetus to overall economic advancement. That's how important a comprehensive and viable housing program is to our country.

Obviously showing a balance approach to the nation's problems, De Venecia also called for adopting a system that would irrigate some 1.5 million hectares of agricultural land to perk up the farm sector which constitutes about half of the nation. At a time like this, the government should really do everything it can to spur productive activities in as many sectors as possible to reenergize the economy and in the process create more employment opportunities for our people.

We aren't saying that only Congressman De Venecia, if he wins the confidence of his peers in the House, could help the government in the passage of vital legislation. But, with his experience, consuming passion and ability to touch base with practically every sector, De Venecia will certainly make for one of the Macapagal administration's effective leaders in any program to confront the complex issues and difficult problems of the day.

All-round advice key to good sales of Pacific Plaza Towers units

THE 54-STORY Pacific Plaza Towers continues to be the top-selling residential property in Metro Manila, according to FPDSavills' residential agency head Tina Templeton during celebrations over recent success in marketing the imposing tower.

FPDSavills residential department, the lead agent of the project, has now sold 30 units with many more now at contract.

A signature project of Metro Pacific Corp. and the Bases Conversion Development Authority, the impressive Pacific Plaza Towers is located within the Fort Bonifacio Global City in Taguig, Metro Manila.

Templeton paid tribute to the efforts of residential team member Daryl Selosa who implemented the successful marketing of the luxury Grade "A" residential development. "I could say that Pacific Plaza Towers is a classic success story, notwithstanding a difficult property market. This prestigious development continues to generate a huge amount of interest among potential buyers and leasing tenants," she said.

Crucial to this impressive residential space take-up is the sound advice and deep knowledge of the industry that FPDSavills offers to tenants and investors. "We work closely with all involved parties—the landlord, developers, interior designers, investors and lawyers—to ensure the sale process is as smooth as possible," explained Templeton.

In addition to a few remaining units for sale, FPDSavills has a number of units for lease and interest from expatriates has been high. Many are attracted to the Towers' landmark qualities. Pacific Plaza Towers, which is now known as "The Best in Asia," offers a magnificent view over the Manila Golf Club, the Makati skyline to the west and the tranquility of Laguna de Bay to the east. Attention to detail in the design phase ensured that the finished project entered the market as "best in class."

ENGINEERS
2001

CHARLIE Goyareb, with wife Dolores, presents the award to architect Maximo Candelaria during the Architects and Engineers Night 2001.

Concrete Ventures honors architects, engineers

TO HONOR and thank architects and engineers who have been using the C-Joist floor and roof slab system for their projects, Concrete Ventures Group Inc., maker of the C-Joist brand, recently held the Architects and Engineers Night 2001 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel.

Attended by more than a hundred well-known architects and engineers, the affair was highlighted by the raffling off of attractive prizes, including a trip to Hong Kong. The guests enjoyed the comedy sketch delivered by popular comedian-artist Jon Santos.

The CVG program reached its sentimental peak when company chair-CEO Charlie A.V. Gorayeb paid a long-overdue tribute to two distinguished architects. They are Aquiles Paredes and Maximo Candelaria.

The two architects were recognized as "pillars" in the profession who have "notched numerous prestigious awards and achieved triumphs in their personal and professional lives."

Gorayeb said that being committed to maintain and improve the quality of its product C-Joist, the Concrete Ventures Group is also acknowledging and thanking its friends in the architecture and engineering professions for their continuing support and patronage.

On top of its commitment to maintain and improve the quality of its product C-Joist, Gorayeb said the CVG also wishes to acknowledge and thank its friends in the architecture and engineering fields for their continuing support and patronage.

The company, he said, also seeks to honor architects and engineers who "have enriched their respective professions through unselfish dedication to the art and craft."

Concrete Ventures Group has been manufacturing and marketing C-Joist floor and roof slab system for the past 10 years.

C-Joist precast, prestressed, reinforced concrete joists are used in the construction of a wide range of residential and commercial buildings, schools, offices, hospitals, shopping malls, condominiums, parking buildings and warehouses.

The product is a popular flooring and roofing slab construction system, offering big savings for the owners, builders and constructors through fast construction or completion of projects. It saves on labor costs, minimizes form works and the use of concrete aggregate materials.

PASEO DE MAGALLANES

An ideal business address

THE TRANSFORMATION of Magallanes Commercial Center, with its sprawling complex of one-story shops, the South Supermarket and the Magallanes Theater, is underway.

Soon to rise is Paseo de Magallanes, a 5.6-hectare development with 48 residential and 22 commercial lots. All of the Paseo de Magallanes' residential lots were sold a week after they were offered to the public late April. As of this writing, 50 percent of the commercial lots have been taken up by the market.

The brisk sales rate is all the more noteworthy because it happens at a time characterized by widespread concern over the failed May 1 siege on Malacañang and the spate of Abu Sayyaf atrocities.

Ayala Land vice president for sales and marketing Marivic Añonuevo believes her company is simply meeting the "pent-up demand" for Paseo de Magallanes' unique and premium location.

Says Añonuevo "Paseo offers access to the high-end market of Magallanes and stands in the middle of two major business and commercial hubs: Alabang and the Makati Central Business District (CBD). It provides a timely commercial opportunity," she notes.

At Paseo de Magallanes, commercial lots range from 618 to 857 square meters and are available under cash, deferred or two-year installment payment schemes.

Paseo de Magallanes is ideal for restaurants, retail outlets, offices and commercial establishments.

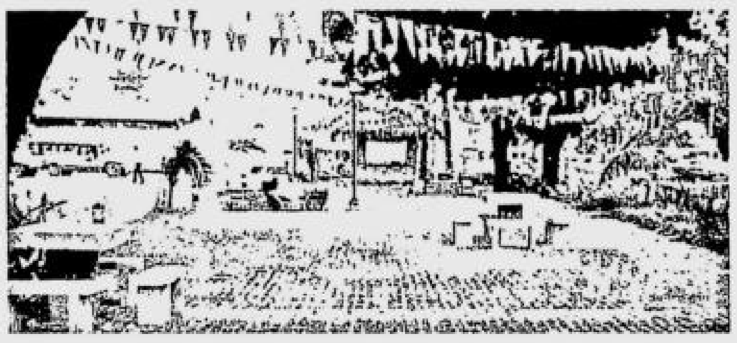
CONSTRUCTSCOPE

Developers confab starts today

THE FIRST national convention of housing practitioners with top government policy makers and related housing program implementors under the Macapagal administration reels off today at the Shangri-La Hotel, Makati City. Sponsored by the Subdivision and Housing Developers Association, in cooperation with the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, the two-day convention is open to all developers, contractors, realtors, brokers, bankers, housing finance institutions, government housing agencies, planners, architects, engineers and professionals from industries allied to housing, according to SHDA national president Mariano D. Martinez Jr. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has been invited as luncheon speaker tomorrow.

Audit of Global City projects

DARREN Munday, Bovis Lend Lease's Asian regional manager for environment, health and safety, recently visited the Bonifacio Global City to conduct the company's regular audits of its projects. The visit was made through Bonifacio Construction Management Corp., a joint venture between Fort Bonifacio Development Corp., developer of the Bonifacio Global City, and Bovis Lend Lease, part of the global real estate, fund management and construction group Lend Lease Corp. The BCMC acts as project managers for the Bonifacio Global City construction projects. Bovis Lend Lease, a world leader in engineering and construction, has an outstanding global and local record in environment, health and safety (EHS). In the Philippines, it is an industry leader in the delivery of EHS programs to its project sites.



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Environment-friendly Vazpave grass pavers help keep Cortabitarte, a public park at the corner of Roxas Boulevard and Quirino Avenue, clean and green as well as mud-free. Manufactured by Vazquez Commodities (Vazcom), Vazpave grass pavers are ideal in creating naturally green environment with the added strength and durability of concrete. They are on sale at Vazcom outlets nationwide.

Mangahan floodway project ongoing

TO ADDRESS this perennial flooding in Pasig, Cainta, Pateros and Taguig, the national government through the Department of Public Works and Highways has tapped Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) to conduct a comprehensive study of the problem.

Through Jica, the Japanese government approved a project now officially called "Metro Manila Flood Control Project-West of Mangahan Floodway."

The funding of the project will be availed through the 21st Yen Loan Package of Jica. The project will be implemented in four stages.

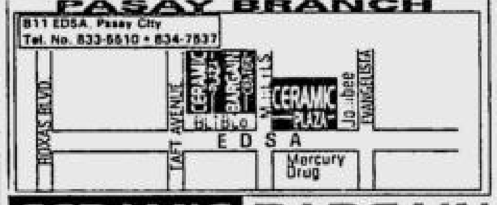
The first stage has commenced last September 2000. It involves the construction of a lakeshore dike, two bridges (Mangahan floodway and Napindan River Bridge) and regular ponds. It has a contract cost of P637.8 million and has a target date of completion is Aug. 15, 2004.

For the second package, the project involves the construction of parapet wall along the banks of Napindan River and the three floodgates along Napindan River. The target completion date is July 16, 2003 at a contract cost of P159.8 million.

For stage three, the project will build two pumping stations (Tapayan and Labasan), three floodgates (Tapayan, Labasan and Pasig) and portion of the lakeshore dike. This P997-million project is expected to be finished in August 2003.

The last stage of the project will also entail the building of two pumping stations and two floodgates, both located in Taguig and Hagonoy.

The commencement of the project hopes to boost the influx of foreign and local investors in the city of Pasig.



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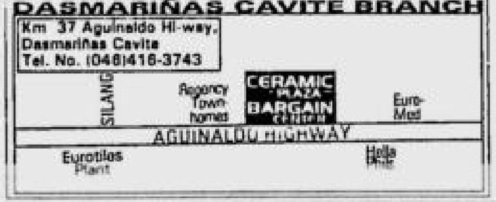

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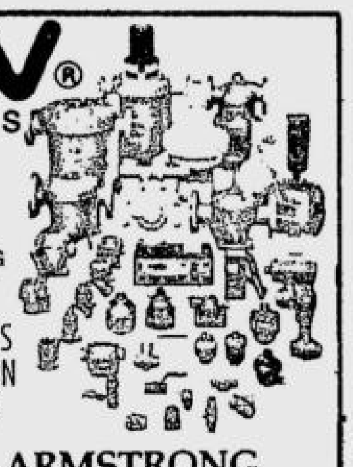

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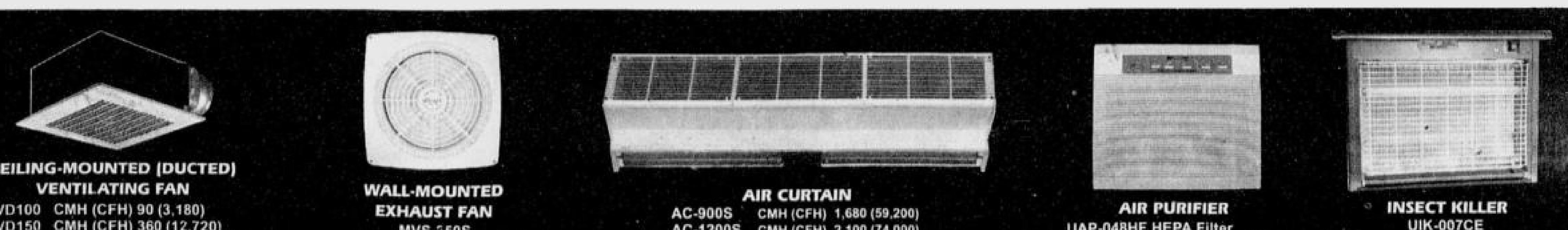

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REAL ESTATE

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor

RP software whiz reduces 90% of housing developers' work

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

AFTER A LAND development design software (subdivision design) comes a three-dimensional structure design software from the same Filipino software developer who designed a 10-hectare subdivision in two days.

The software is considered a breakthrough in Philippine computer aided design of houses and buildings, since it could estimate the cost of a building in a few minutes after all parts have been defined.

With that, Softland Buildex Software creator Delbert T. Cachero said that designing and planning structures are now reduced by 90 percent, aside from generating 100 percent accuracy.

A six-story building that is conventionally designed and planned in six to eight months can now be done in just one month using as little manpower as possible. The ratio in terms of manpower is 1 (Softland) is to 15 (manual method).

A drafting and design software running inside AutoCAD, the Buildex software is used to design houses, buildings and other building structures.

Multibillion-dollar business

In an interview with the INQUIRER, Cachero said he was eyeing a potential multibillion-dollar business with this software, with the world as the target market.

He is now flooded with calls from local and foreign companies willing to market his software.

"There are about 5 million AutoCAD (computer aided design) users alone and another 5 million non-CAD users. And the world is still shifting from manual to CAD method," enthused Cachero.

He noted that selling 10,000 units (of his software) at P250,000 each would yielda P2.5 billion.

However, Cachero feared his creation could also make him a victim of piracy. He is not selling his software until he is sure his creation is secured.

Potential clients of Cachero include the engineering, architectural and the construction industries—whether big or small—and range from housing designers to condominium developers, from students to professionals.

One of the 1998 winners in the national IT excellence in the application software subcategory of the Department of Science and Technology with his subdivision design software, Cachero placed second in last year's national IT excellence for his building structure design software. His winning pot was P700,000.

How it works

Asked how the Softland Buildex Software works in building structures, Cachero said it could estimate the cost of a 10-story building in a matter of minutes. The estimate is complete with materials list order, labor and materials cutting list.

He added that its features, which could do automatic walk-throughs, 3D views, plans and elevations, could also be done by other software. What makes his software different, he claimed, is the time reduced in designing and drafting. He claimed that the design cost is reduced by 90 percent.

Cachero said that by simply defining or describing a building component, the 3D object of that particular structure could be drawn using the software.

He said a simple room would take a simple procedure. First, after drawing a floor plan using the Buildex floor plan generator, one has to describe all the components of the room on that floor plan and a 3D representation of that floor plan will be automatically drawn. The bill of quantities and estimate would also then be generated. Cachero added that a 3D representation and drawing could be modified and edited.

Modification

"Once you modify the 3D drawing, the bill of quantities and estimates will be modified as well," he explained. He added that the generation of plans and drawings, as well as designing and estimating, is now "very far" from the traditional method.

One of Cachero's clients is the owner of the Saint Joseph Institute of Technology where the school already has existing three medium-rise school buildings. When the school wanted to build another six-story building, the owner wanted to see how the interior of the building would look like—particularly the effect of beams and columns—before the building could actually be built.

"Because we are in 3D and we could do a walk-through, this is very easy for us. The requirement cannot be presented using the manual method. During the previous building preconstructions, the (owners) complained that they couldn't understand the plans presented to them," recalled Cachero.

The six-story building of the institute is now under construction.

Aside from his newly designed software, Cachero's small company—Softland—is still deluged with design consulting jobs from subdivision developers all over the country. His firm offers fully computerized subdivision scheming, fully computerized detailed design engineering, project estimates, feasibility studies and full CAD support.

Cachero stressed once again that speed is urgent in the real estate industry and that he banks on speed, economy esthetics and accuracy.

TREE PLANTING AT VICENZA

Crown Asia employees, brokers and homeowners plant trees throughout Vicenza, the newest phase of Citta Italia, their premier development in Cavite. The tree planting forms part of Crown Asia's commitment to the environment. "Starter Homes" packages, with low monthly and friendly bank financing schemes are available at Vicenza. Citta Italia in Imus, Cavite, is a 60-hectare master-planned community in an Italian countryside setting.

Housing loan relief to expire June 30

THE NATIONAL Home Mortgage Finance Corp. has called on its some 200,000 housing loan borrowers to avail themselves of the agency's loan penalty condonation program that is set to expire on June 30.

Lawyer Angelico T. Salud, NHMFC president, said the NHMFC will waive up to 100 percent of accumulated loan penalties on delinquent accounts, or proportionate to the loan arrearages to be updated.

To avail of the benefit, a delinquent borrower may either fully pay his outstanding loan balance, update the unpaid monthly amortizations, or restructure the loan upon payment of a nominal down payment.

The loan relief is provided under Republic Act 8501, the Housing Loan Condonation Act of 1998, and is available to loans availed of under the NHMFC's Unified Home Lending Program, Community Mortgage Program, or under its old Pag-Ibig/ Open-housing loan program (Folio I), Salud informed.

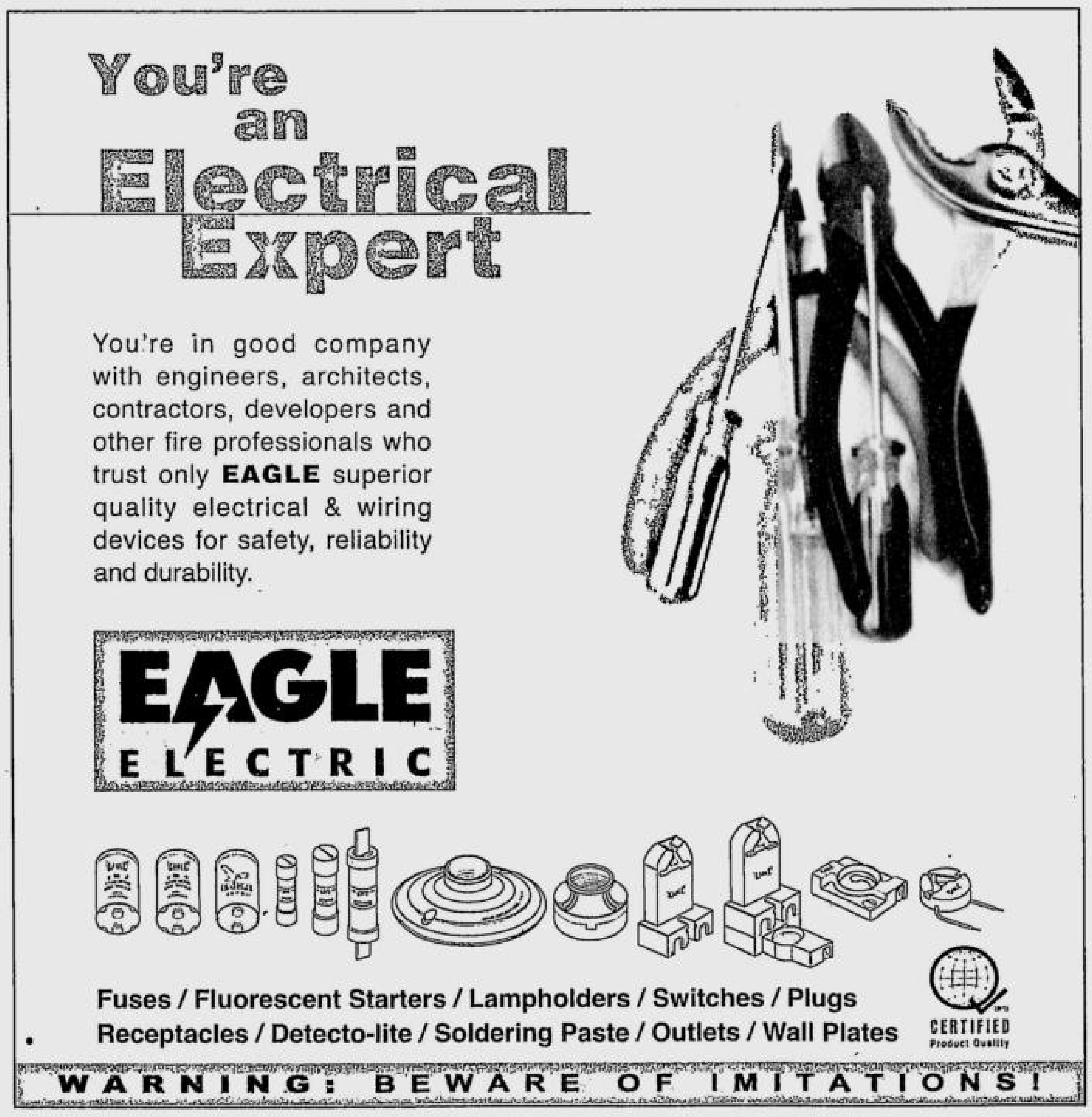
The grant of loan penalty condonation and the provision of loan updating assistance facility to economically distressed borrowers have been implemented since March 1998, the effectivity of RA 8501 and was extended up to June 30 this year to provide delinquent borrowers ample opportunity to restructure their loans within affordable repayment levels, he pointed out.

All concerned borrowers may apply for loan updating and penalty condonation with any NHMFC zonal offices nearest the borrowers or to the NHMFC One-Stop-Shop Center located at the ground floor of Filomena Bldg., 104 Amorsolo St., Makati City.

Upon expiry of the loan relief program, the NHMFC will start foreclosing the mortgages of housing loans with arrearages of at least 24 months to assure the recovery of funds and enhance the quality of the NHMFC's mortgage loan portfolio, Salud added.

3 ARCHITECTURAL STYLES

Buena Vista Residential Development located in Mabalacat, Pampanga, comes up with three architectural styles that are reminiscent of picturesque Spanish stone houses. Pacifica (shown here), Andalusia and Bianca styles give the Pampagueños the old feeling of being "home" with these readily acceptable and climate-adaptable designs. Buena Vista is a 21-hectare development of Doña Rosana Realty and Development Corp.



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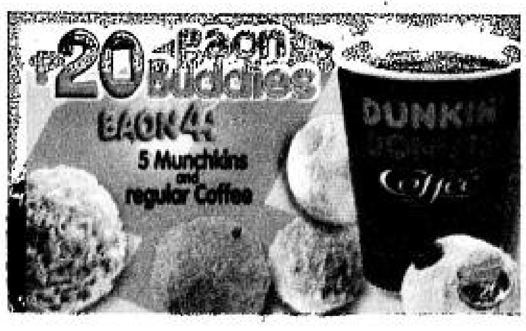
P20 Baon Buddies
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5 Munchkins and regular Coffee

Garlic, aged for 20 months at the Wakunaga lab, produces an extract that can help treat modern ailments

MR. TAKEDA, manager of Wakunaga garlic farm in Nayoro, shows the garlic that's grown without the use of chemical fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides. Such fine garlic is used for the production of Kyolic.

The G factor: an ancient cure revived

BY ROWENA C. BURGOS

IT all began in the ruins of Japan immediately after World War II. Food shortages and diseases raged throughout the country.

The Americans, overseeing the restoration of the country, brought in a German expert, Dr. Eugene Schnell, to rebuild Japan's pharmaceutical industry and provide medicines for the suffering population. He realized that the Japanese needed basic, natural nutritional elements rather than antibiotics to build their strength.

Dr. Schnell's research led him to believe that garlic would be the ideal herb to maintain the people's health. Garlic (allium sativum), a member of the onion family, has been used to combat infectious diseases for thousands of years in the Middle East, Europe and Asia.

Although the herb was known in Japan, the fastidious Japanese considered it rude to smell like garlic. Continuing his research in developing a superior garlic product, Dr. Schnell met Manji Wakunaga with whom he joined forces to develop natural and beneficial products. In 1955, Wakunaga founded the Wakunaga Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. as a venue to market the pharmaceuticals Dr. Schnell had developed.

In 1966, under the guidance of Dr. Schnell, Wakunaga developed a special process to produce a garlic product without the herb's pungency. Such procedure involves aging garlic bulbs for over 20 months in stainless steel tanks, which converts the aromatic ingredients into water-soluble and odorless compounds. The product is now known as aged garlic extract (AGE) which is utilized to create Kyoleopin, a natural nutritional tonic which has received a favorable response.

Since then, Wakunaga has poured great efforts into other fields of research and development to expand its range of business. In 1981, it entered

THE G FACTOR.../ p.C2

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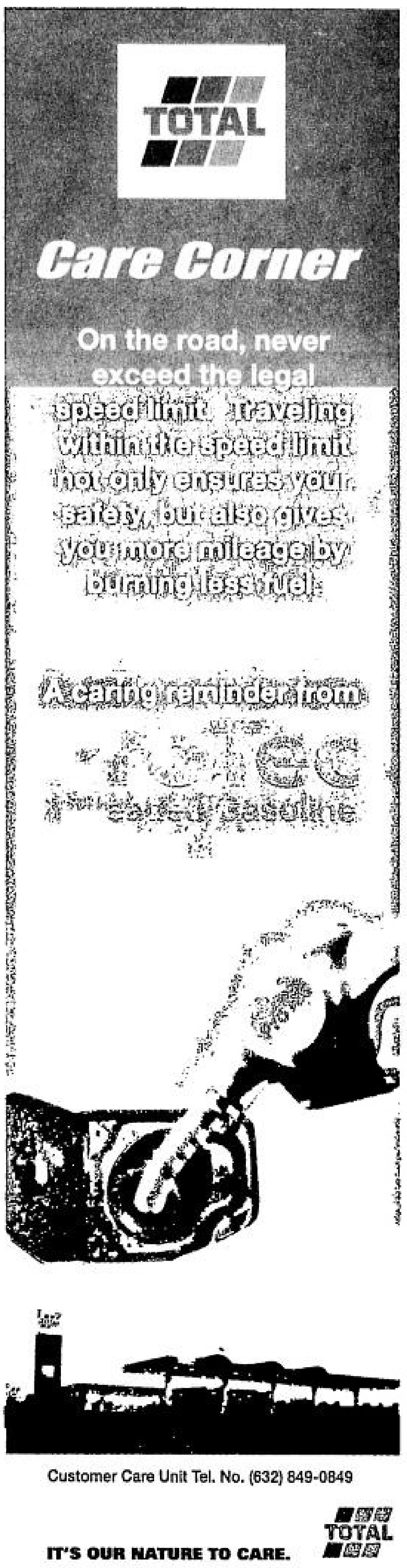
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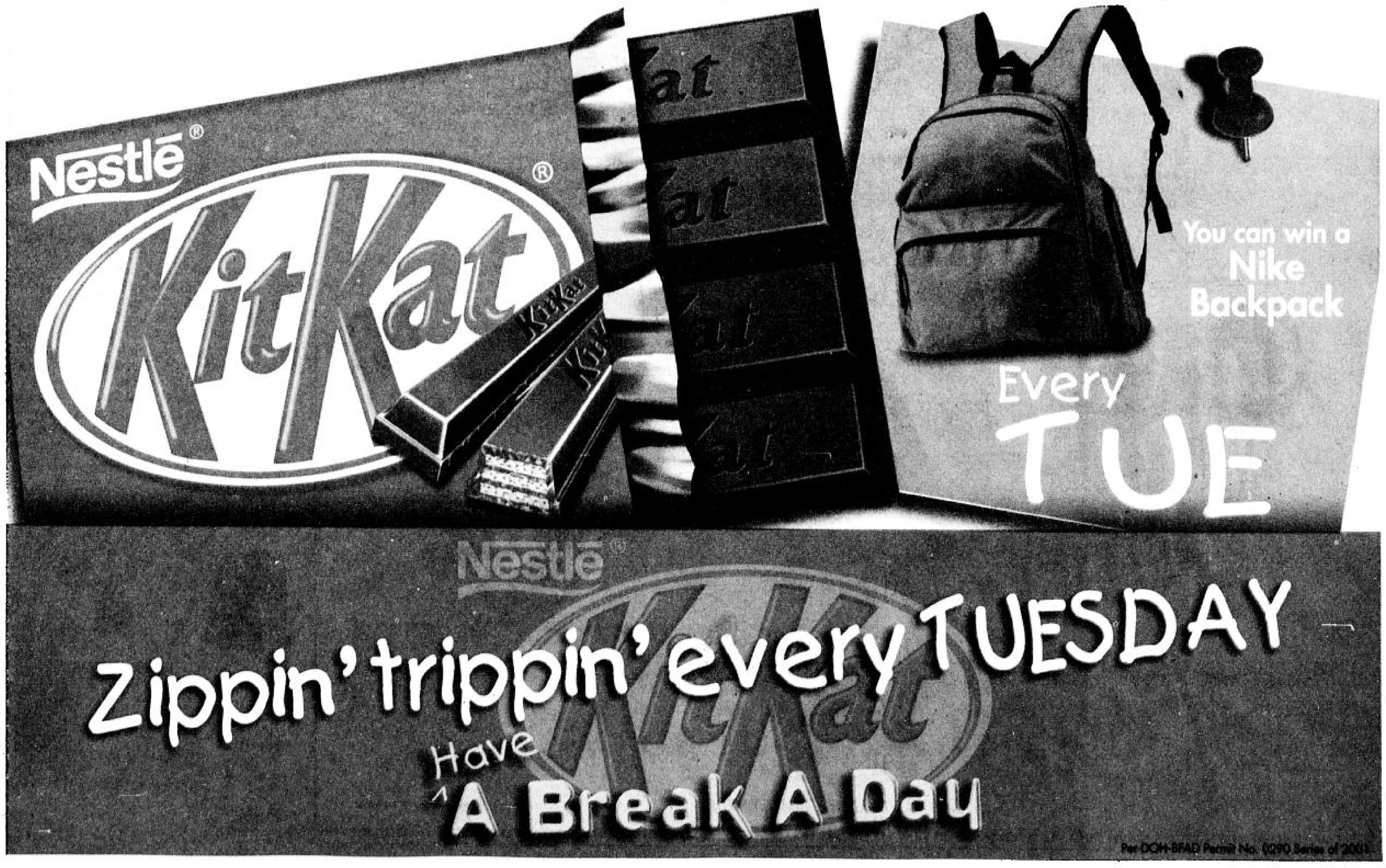
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The G factor: an ancient cure revived

THE KOYAMA Pharmacy in Asahikawa sells Wakunaga's Kyolic products. Photo shows its owners (L-R): pharmacists Naoki Matsuda, Kasuo Matsuda and Hiroko Matsuda.

(From page C1)

into biotechnology and began to market health food products around the globe.

Products

Wakunaga's product line consists of five major categories which are of natural origin and manufactured under the quality systems of the World Health Organization's Good Manufacturing Practices and ISO 9002.

Kyolic AGE: Provides a variety of formulas featuring AGE as the main ingredient in combination with various herbs, vitamins and minerals.

Logic Series: Signature line of supplements designed by leading doctors to address specific health needs.

Herbal Products: Provides high-quality popular herbs in convenient, one-per day formulas.

Kyo-Green and Green Foods: Offers the best green nutrients from land and sea.

Kyo-Dophilus and Probiotics: Delivers stable natural human strain acidophilus to supplement friendly flora and restore the flora balance essential for intestinal health.

WAKUNAGA'S natural cold-aging process retains garlic's beneficial properties, eliminating its smelly side effects.

A seminar attended by participants to the Kyolic Japan Tour on June 10-17 (the Philippine delegation was sponsored by Wakunaga of America and GNC Philippines) discussed the advantages of aging garlic and benefits of AGE at the Wakunaga Research Institute in Hiroshima.

According to Harunobu Amagase, aging garlic triggers natural changes in garlic's constituents, resulting in health-promoting compounds like S-allyl-cysteine and S-allyl-mercaptocysteine, which help in the prevention and treatment of heart disease and cancer.

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Aging garlic also eliminates stomach upset that people who eat fresh garlic often experience. AGE is more easily absorbed in the stomach and small intestine.

Raw garlic contains powerful sulfur compounds, the basis of the plant's health benefits, which effectively thwart invasion by bacteria, viruses, microorganisms and insects. Furthermore, they protect against damage by heavy metals or ultraviolet light. However, in the studies presented by Amagase, these compounds are also responsible for garlic's strong odor and irritant effect on the stomach.

It has been known for some time that an excessive amount of raw garlic can destroy red blood cells, leading to anemia. It also decreases calcium and protein in the blood and reduces levels of healthy intestinal flora. Cases of asthma and inflammation of the skin have also been attributed to raw garlic.

Because of its oil-soluble constituents, raw garlic can also cause ulcers and hemorrhage in the lining of the stomach, diarrhea and dehydration, low blood sugar and decreased sperm levels.

AGE benefits

Aged Garlic Extract
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According to Nagatoshi Ide and Toru Moriguchi of the Healthcare Research Institute, Wakunaga Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd, pharmacologic studies of AGE have demonstrated its value for the prevention and treatment of cardiovascular diseases and cancer. The remarkable diverse actions of AGE include immune system enhancement, relief of allergies, stress and fatigue, enhancement of learning and memory, protection of the liver, promotion of intestinal health, reduced brain damage during stroke and heavy metal removal.

Today, millions of Japanese use AGE daily. Interestingly, Japan has about half the rate of heart disease as the US. They also have a significantly lower incidence of breast cancer. One major contributing factor is the traditional Japanese diet: low in saturated fat and rich in soy and fish.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph

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WELL AND GOOD

Tina Aboitiz Juan

YOU know that saying, "Pride goes before a fall"? Well, many times, pride also goes before an exercise injury. Ego is one of the major reasons people get hurt when they work out. I believe this wholeheartedly not only because I have seen it for myself in the 14 years that I have been a fitness professional but also because I have been there and done that. All of us have a bit of insecurity (which is actually the real reason for pride) so there are times when we do stupid things like lift more weight than we should or try to turn ourselves into a human pretzel just because our yoga classmate can do it.

One of the reasons I hurt my shoulder back in the '80s was wanting to impress my male gym classmates with how much a small woman like me could lift (the other reasons were wrong technique, risky exercises and denial about the pain). Talk about dumb. But people do dumb things when their ego is involved. Men want to impress other men with how much iron they can pump even if they are almost collapsing under the weight they are carrying. Women want to impress other women with how flexible they are even though their muscles are already shaking.

Having a competitive streak might win you medals in sports but when it comes to plain old exercise, all you will gain is an injury. When I lived in Singapore for a short while, I thought my aerobics teacher was stuck-up and I felt she was challenging me to compete with her. Being young and foolish at that time, I fought fire with fire and almost sprained my ankle during one of her classes. Thank goodness nothing happened. I would have hurt myself because of some silly woman whose name I hardly even remember now.

I recently met someone who over-stretched her buttocks and hamstrings (back of the thighs) so badly during yoga that it took her two months to recover. When I mentioned to her that yoga is supposed to be about non-competition and not comparing yourself with anyone else, she said she wasn't competing with anyone else in the class, just herself. That's the problem. You can be your worst enemy.

Some people would rather "die" than admit that they are no longer as fit or as young as they used to be. That's why you hear stories about men tearing their knees to pieces because they tried to play a fast game of basketball even though they hadn't stepped foot on a court for 10 years. Aerobic teachers will tell you that women who haven't done aerobics in years will insist on joining the advanced classes because "they are used to doing aerobics."

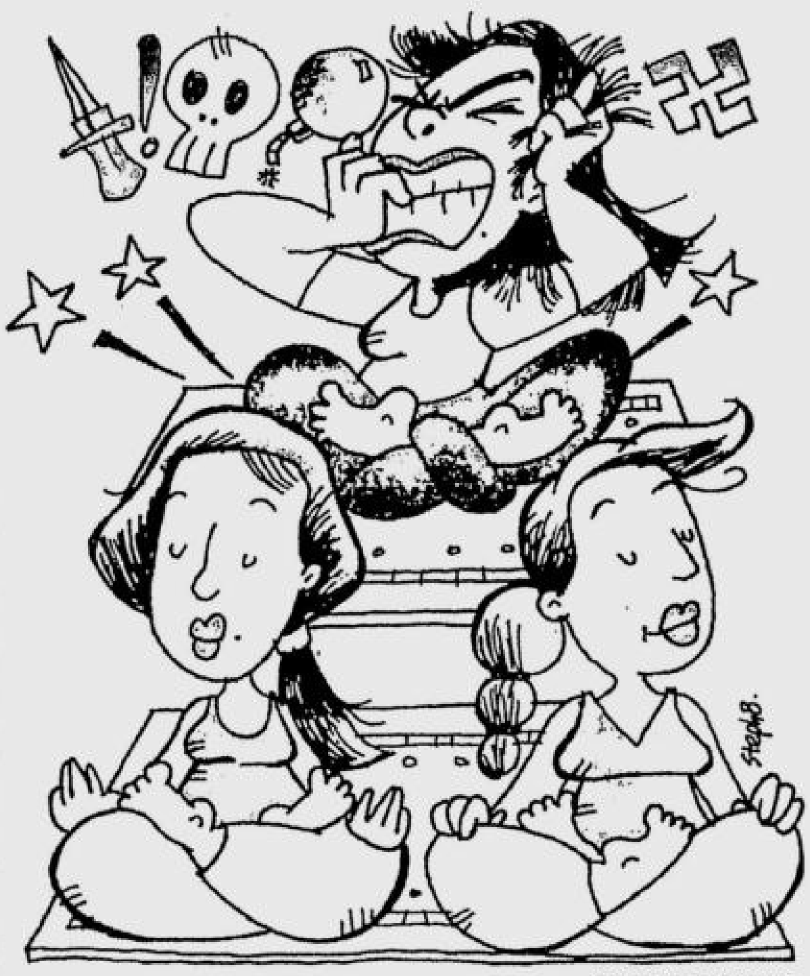
Stigma on beginners

There must be some kind of stigma attached to the word "beginner" because there are so many people who refuse to accept the fact that they don't have the skill, strength or stamina to do advanced exercise programs. How many times have I heard our front desk staff trying to dissuade a beginner from joining the advanced kickboxing class or heard our gym staff trying to convince a beginner that he or she cannot do the exercises they want because they just aren't experienced enough to do them safely. The kindest thing you can say about these foolhardy people is that even though they are too proud to be in the beginner classes, they don't mind looking uncoordinated in the midst of their advanced classmates.

Having a competitive streak may win you medals but when it comes to plain exercise, all you'll gain is an injury

Meanwhile, some people are so scared of looking foolish that they never want to learn a new exercise skill. Thus, they end up doing the same thing year after year. This is too bad because they could get better results by cross-training or mixing their exercise programs. Also, they run the risk of inflicting an overuse injury on themselves because their muscles and joints keep getting stressed the same way.

Another way that pride can get in the way of safety is when people refuse to be corrected by their fitness trainers. It doesn't just happen in the gym I work in. My colleagues in the industry tell me that it happens at their gyms, too. Some clients actually get angry at having their exercise technique corrected. I find this amazing because they are paying for the instruction and yet they act like they know more than the instructor. This makes me wonder if it happens in other teaching industries, too. For example, do people who hire an art teacher get mad when the teacher makes corrections in their painting technique?



PHOTOS BY STEPH BRAVO

Just like there are fashion trend victims, there are also exercise trend victims. Not all exercise programs are safe for you even if they are the latest trends. They may be fine for other people but not for you. For example, if you have flat feet and lower-back problems, kickboxing just isn't appropriate for you. I have a client like this and I have "banned" her from joining the kickboxing classes. Luckily, she is mature enough to accept her body's unique needs and doesn't feel like she has to prove anything to anyone.

An exercise trend victim chooses his or her workout because it is trendy. It doesn't matter whether the type of exercise agrees with their body or not. What's important is that they feel "cool" and "with it" because they are doing the latest thing. Unfortunately, when a fashion trend victim makes a mistake, he or she simply ends up looking ridiculous; but when an exercise trend victim makes a mistake, he or she could end up with an expensive medical bill.

Contraindicated trainers

There are many step aerobics victims from the era when it was the absolute latest trend, who are now walking around with ruined knees. We will soon hear of kickboxing, Pilates and yoga victims. This is not because these exercise programs are bad. People who have physical limitations just shouldn't do them in their advanced formats. As a yoga teacher once said, "There are no contraindicated exercises; just contraindicated people."

Lastly, even if you have a mature ego, you can still get injured if you have an instructor with a false sense of pride. This type of trainers doesn't care too much about your safety. They are more concerned with being popular and showing off that they know the latest exercise techniques. How will you recognize them?

When you complain that the exercise they gave you hurts your lower back or makes your knees painful, they will tell you "no pain, no gain" implying that you are a wimp. If you come across an instructor like this, run far away. It's bad enough that you have to be careful that your own ego doesn't get the better of you. You don't need the extra stress of having to defend yourself from an ego-tripping fitness trainer.

* * *

Attention all gym owners and managers: Lifefitness Academy is back! This two-day seminar will be held on July 12 and 13 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. David Welsh, one of the industry's leading management presenters, will talk on "Creating a Winning Team, Success Through Effective People Management." For more details, call Doris at 826-0751/2781.

* * *

The Sports Medicine Association of the Philippines will hold its Basic (Module I) and Intermediate (Module II) Course in Sports Medicine at the University of Santo Tomas Medicine Building starting June 30. For more details, e-mail sportsmedphil@yahoo.com or call 521-9123 or 303-1142.

Grieving children receive message from dead father

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

KAREN (not her real name), who works in Makati, e-mailed me on the last week of May about certain strange experiences connected with the sudden death of her 48-year-old father, Ambrosio.

Her father shows himself to her brother Reynaldo, who has just graduated from law school, and also to herself since his death in November or about seven months from her letter. She says he appears to them in human form but covered in sand. They couldn't understand why he appears to them in that manner. That's the first time I heard of a ghost appearing with sand around him. He has also appeared to their young sister, but it is the brother to whom her father appears more often.

Karen wanted to ask her father some personal questions, and also to find out why he was still showing himself to them. I felt intuitively that her brother is clairvoyant and can be made to talk to the father psychically. So we set up an appointment in my office for her and her brother Rey to see me on June 1. They brought along their young sister, Mila.

During our initial conversation, I confirmed my intuitive reading that her brother is a more developed clairvoyant than Karen. Since he was a child, he would see spirits and predict the future. He also goes out of his body. One time, he experienced being possessed by the spirit of Julie Vega, a deceased actress whom he kept thinking of. Being earthbound looking for an open channel, she was able to go inside him. He couldn't move and felt another being was inside him. It took a long time to get rid of the possessing entity. That experience scared him.

When I told them what I wanted to do was for Rey to contact his father through a trance state, he was reluctant to do it at first, because he didn't want to experience the same unpleasant psychic experience he had when a dead entity possessed him.

I explained to him that what we were going to do was not for the dead to enter or possess him, because that's bad and negative; what we would do was simply for him to go into a relaxed state so he could mentally tune in to his father and psychically communicate with him.

So he finally agreed to the experiment. I induced him into a very relaxed state until he reached the alpha or theta brain wave level. At that state, I asked him to focus on his father's image and call him. Rey said he could now see his father, but he couldn't talk to him. He was struggling to get away from the light. He wanted to still stay behind.

Automatic writing

Then he said his father was touching his right hand. I knew the spirit wanted him to write instead of talk. I gave Rey a piece of paper and ball pen. He started writing, first in Tagalog and then in English.

The two sisters started crying as they read the message of their father. After the automatic writing, I told the two sisters to start asking any question they wanted to ask their father. Karen told him she loved him and will pray for him. The father replied through Rey. He said they are asking him to go to the light but he refused to do so. He still wants to stay behind. They asked why. He said he died prematurely. He was not ready to die yet.

Karen asked why she saw him covered with sand when he appears to them. He said he has been digging on the sand since he came there. That's what he has been asked to do. "What are you digging.?" He said he didn't know. Maybe, he said, as punishment for his sins.

He said he will always be with them; he will manifest his presence to them in some way. Karen asked if he will be there during her birthday, and he replied, yes.

He said there is another brother of his who is going to die soon. When Karen asked who, he refused to give the name. He said he cannot reveal that. No amount of persuasion would make him reveal the name. So they let go of it.

After some more social amenities and reassurance of love, the father said he had to go. The brother said he could see his father saying goodbye to them as he walked away.

Then I woke up Rey and he said he could remember everything that happened while he was in a trance. I told him to give the message of their father to their mother. They said they would and thanked me for the experience they had.

Second contact with the father

A week later I called up Karen to follow up the case. I found out the children tried to contact their father again on their own through Reynaldo. This time, their mother was present and she prepared specific questions to ask the father.

Rey first asked Karen to try to be the channel, but she said she couldn't see anything. When Rey tried it by relaxing his body and becoming mentally receptive, the way I guided him before, he said he saw their father now in barong tagalog and told him he is ready to leave soon. He said he would say goodbye to his other relatives. The next day their uncle, the brother of their father, told them he dreamt of their father saying goodbye to him.

The channeling session was suddenly interrupted because Rey saw two or three more spirits trying to prevent their father from talking and wanting to enter Rey. Rey's hair stood up and he became agitated. Surprised and shocked at what was happening, Karen slapped her entranced brother on the head, which woke him up.

I told Karen to tell Rey not to contact their father again without guidance or protection. I forgot to warn them of the dangers of spirit communication, that there are negative and lower spirits who are only waiting for an open channel to enter. They promised not to do it again without guidance.

Ovarian cyst gone

Karen was in high spirits when I talked to her on the phone. "I'm glad you called," she said. "I really wanted to talk to you to tell you the developments. You probably sensed it, didn't you?"

I said, "Yes, I sensed the need to contact you to find out what happened after our first sessions." She said there were many positive developments. They felt their father is now happy and at peace. Their mother one time was gardening when she felt something brush her cheek very gently. She felt it was their father and their mother felt good to learn he's still around. Karen herself experienced somebody pressing her arm gently and she felt good about it and not fear.

The best news, said Karen enthusiastically, is that her ovarian cyst, which was already dangerously big, was completely gone after a medical examination. She believed her father healed her as he had promised. Her cyst on the breast, however, has not yet been checked, but she felt confident it, too, would be gone soon.

I was very happy to have been instrumental in giving some solace to this family by enabling the children to actually communicate with their deceased father. As I have repeatedly said, the dead are always with us.

One time he felt the spirit of Julie Vega inside him

Address letters to this column to Room 308 Prince Plaza I, 106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati City or e-mail jlicauco@geocities.com. Visit www.angelfire.com/journal/licauco. Listen to my dzMM radio program every Sunday at 6-8 p.m.

Take Charge Doc!

Nicky S. Montoya, M.D.

MEDICard

Looking to learn more about your benefits under your MEDICard coverage? Do you want to be clear on the procedures, which allow you to avail of MEDICard's services?

Get your information straight from MEDICard's Medical Director, DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA every Tuesday.

TAKE CHARGE DOC, one of the many ways we encourage you to get the answers and allow you to make the best use of your medical card.

FAQs (frequently asked questions)

What are dreaded diseases?
Dreaded diseases are life-threatening diseases, like stroke, stones, and diabetes. They are considered pre-existing if acquired before or during the first year of membership. Injuries sustained from covered accidents and complications of an apparent ordinary illnesses (e.g. typhoid, pneumonia) are also considered as dreaded diseases. Coverage of maximum dreaded disease limits of MEDICard accounts vary from chosen room plans.

Meet your MEDICard Team

MEDICard's Pediatrician at the Medical City General Hospital (MCGH) is **Dr. Cynthia A. Aguirre.** Dr. Aguirre is a batch '79 graduate of the University of the Philippines and has been practicing her specialization for over 15 years now. She is currently a member of the Philippine Pediatric Society and Pediatric Infectious Disease Society of the Philippines. She is married to Mr. Luis Nicanor V. Aguirre, IV and has been blessed with three wonderful children. For consultations, you may see Doc Aguirre from Mondays to Saturdays except on Wednesdays, 2 to 5 in the afternoon at room 415, the Medico Building of MCGH.

Meet **Dr. Emiterio M. Banatin, Jr.**, MEDICard accredited doctor based in Medical City General Hospital (MCGH). Doc Banatin is a graduate of Medicine from UERMMC, batch '74. He took his residency training in General Surgery at MCGH and sub-specialized in Laparoscopic Surgery. He is a family man to Carmencita Alberto-Banatin, also a doctor, and to two loveable children. He is also a proud member of the Philippine Society of Surgeons, The Philippine Society of Gastro-Surgery and The Philippine Society of Laparoscopic Surgery. For consultations, you may see Doc Banatin at room 506, the Medico Building of MCGH every Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 2 to 6 PM.

MEDICard's Pediatrician at St. Jude Family Hospital in Los Baños, Laguna is **Dr. Marina San Agustin.** Doc San Agustin is a graduate of the University of Santo Tomas, batch '63 and a member of The Philippine Medical Association, Laguna Medical Society and Philippine Pediatric Society. She is a widow and spends her easy days reading and swimming with her two daughters. For consultations, you may see Dr. San Agustin at St. Jude, Mondays to Saturdays from 8 AM to 5 PM.

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. **BE HEARD AND BE READ.** You can write **DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA** at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. HV Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com. For membership inquiries, please call 810-2399 and look for Ms. Joy Mendiola. **TEXT MEDICard** for your queries: **0917-7518365** (Globe) or **0919-2476240** (Smart). Please don't forget to include your complete name and landline number where MEDICard could reach you.
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ISO 9002

A now-cruel river runs through it

By Constantino C. Tejero

A beautiful documentary film captures the havoc visited upon the Agusan marshland because of greed and ignorance

A FEW minutes into Nonoy Regalado's documentary film "Resource at Risk: Philippine Marshlands," a Manobo man plaintively launches into a Visayan rendition of an old pop song: "Rain gently falls..."

Then the voice rises to a heartbreaking crescendo as the man passionately sings: "There'll be no sunshine in my life...!"

This is a moment of supreme irony because, of course, the rain doesn't fall gently. It is a downpour, in fact, and it brings such flooding to the Agusan River that the muddy water reaches up to the roof beams of the schoolhouse and won't recede for months.

The catch basin for this flooding is the Agusan marsh. It is the largest remaining undisturbed freshwater wetland in the Philippines, spanning 90,000 hectares, says a note on the jacket of the film's videocassette.

"This is the home of the Agusanon Manobo," continues the note. "In this documentary, the viewer will see how the Manobo people adapt to the harsh conditions of the marsh—virtually living on water for six months each year while nearly everything around them is submerged in a great flood."

How these people adapt is by turns sad and funny. We see, for instance, kids playing, cats and dogs frolicking, pigs and chickens feeding, vegetables growing on drifting boats and rafts instead of in proper backyards. Some of the families, in fact, have made makeshift backyards of bamboo poles and wooden planks tied to their houseboats.

A few of those interviewed say some years ago the river was not this cruel, the water was not this dirty, the flood was not this high, and it receded hours after it rose. The viewer reflexively puts the blame on the rampant logging which denudes the mountains, and rightly so.

Landscape and history

"The river carries with it the best and worst of Mindanao's landscape and history," intones a voiceover.

And the viewer is regaled with vignettes of the rich wildlife (102 bird species, 16 of them endemics; tall tales of a giant crocodile swallowing people, birds as big as children), the great flood, illegal logging, nonsustainable fishing (the electric method used by big fishermen destroys the fish stock, thus depriving small fishermen of their sustenance).

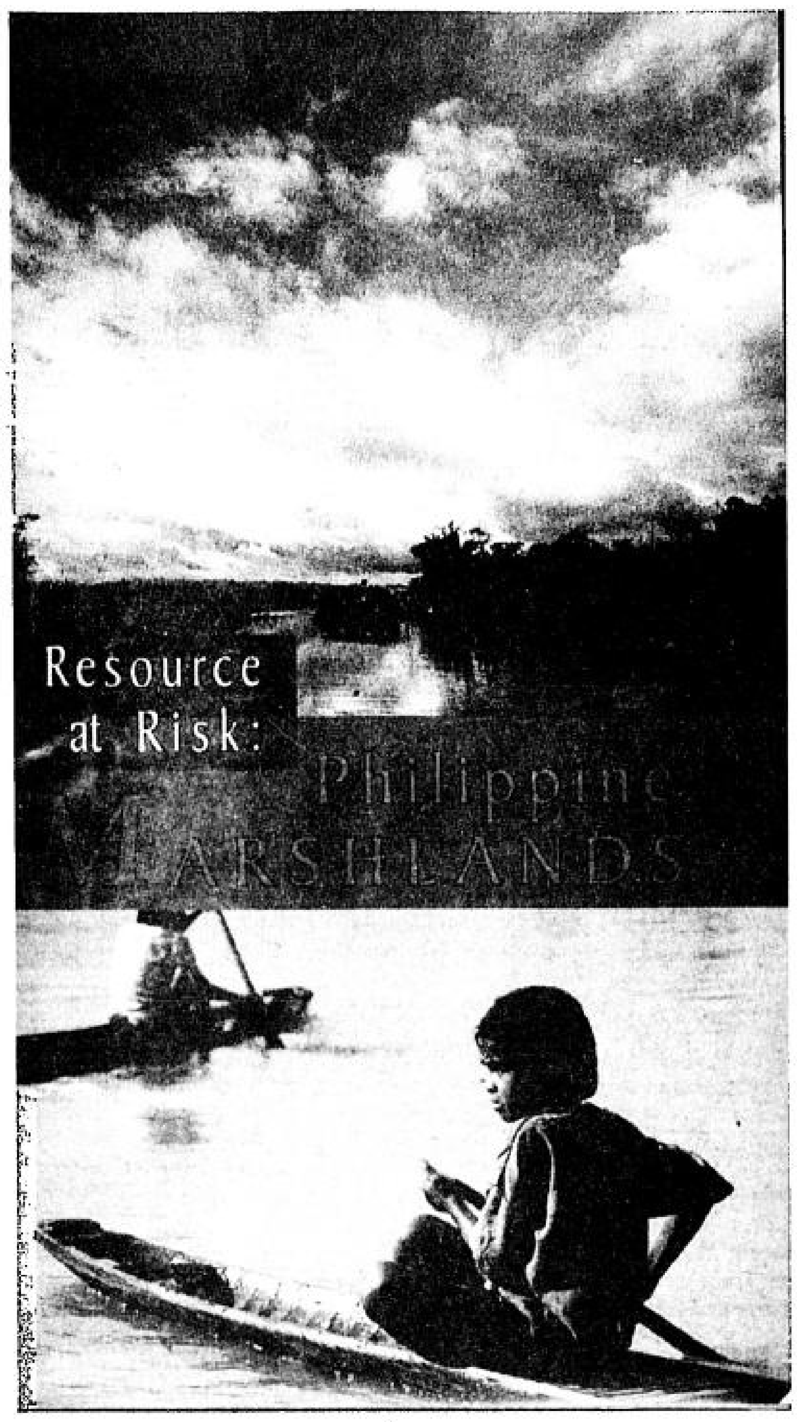
Here the film turns National Geographic, particularly in the vignette about the purple heron, the most regal resident of the marsh, which came all the way from Russia and Mongolia.

With a Manobo named Molong as guide, we visit the nesting ground of these herons, where their long-necked heads rise like periscopes above the water hyacinths. Molong says they first espied these birds in 1984. There were only a few of them then, but now there are thousands

The Agusanon Manobos are committed to protect their piece of earth (or waterworld). Datu Tikling, their leader, teaches them the conservation of nature's resources. For instance, since the purple heron lays only three eggs, the Manobo takes only one egg from a nest so there will be two left to be hatched.

This is a beautiful documentary, made by committed young people. Regalado is both director and cameraman. An Mercado-Alcantara wrote the highly informative, often poetic script. Raul Rodrigo is creative director, while Stella Chiu is production manager. Writer-environmentalist José Ma. Lorenzo Tan narrates.

"Philippine Marshlands" recently won the Film Academy of the Philippines award for Best Documentary Film. Its VHS tape is available at Bookmark and The Filipino Bookstore.



Farmland and sanctuary

It's also a timely project, as the Agusan marsh is being threatened today. Only a third of it was proclaimed a protected area and wildlife sanctuary in 1996, and more and more of the area is being converted into farmland.

This would be disastrous, says the narrator, as it would not only destroy the wildlife in the marsh, but it would drown Butuan City out of the map.

The videocassette note explains: "Marshlands are one of the most misunderstood and unappreciated elements in the web of life. They are often dismissed as ugly and useless. Because of this misconception, many Philippine marshes have been converted into farmland by those who think that they are putting them to better use...

"In fact, marshlands serve a very important role in maintaining the ecological balance. During the rainy season, the marsh serves as a catch basin, absorbing waters from the mountains and preventing floods that can destroy lives and property. The vegetation in the marsh traps debris, which decompose and release precious nutrients into the river, which will then go on to nourish many other forms of life."

The film proceeds to show the disastrous effects of the conversion of the Candaba swamp. This used to be 22,000 hectares stretching from Baliwag, Bulacan, to Pampanga; it has been reduced to 500 hectares after having been divided by dikes and subdivided into farm lots. It has since ceased to be a catch basin, thus the perennial flooding in the Great Plain of Luzon.

The film traces a similar problem of Manila to the conversion of marshlands into what are now Makati City, Sta. Ana and parts of Ermita. With those catch basins no longer there, the Pasig River swells and, unable to contain so much volume of water, brims all over the place.

The narrator laments that it seems the great marsh of Agusan is going the way of the Candaba swamp and the Pasig River. But there's a ray of hope.

Some people from the outside world, such as conservationist Blas Tabarranza, forest ranger Sammy Ortega, scientist Danny Balete, and, yes, the film documentarists themselves, are working closely with the Manobo people to protect the Agusan marsh and preserve this cradle of life.

Who knows, they may yet bring back the sunshine to the passionate singer's life.

Friends and all that jazz

FRIENDS and family of Rikki Jimenez enjoyed an evening of good food and jazz music when they helped him celebrate his birthday on June 5 at the Orchidarium of the Rizal Park.

[illegible] bol, designer-photographer Alex Vega, talent manager-columnist Bibsy Carballo, top film directors Mel Chionglo, Joel Lamangan and Gil M. Portes, Belco Marketing chair Belen Lovina Ticzon Martel and BMI executives Ophie T. Clemente and Ina Ticzon, Togo honorary consul Evie Costa, women of leisure Fortune Ledesma, Pacita de Guzman and Roi Phillips, beauty queen Myrna P. Borromeo, designers Ben Farrales, Nolie Hans and Tony Cajucom, lawyer Ningning Muñoz, philanthropist and art patron Danny Dolor, Heritage Hotel Manila's Geena Zablan and Joey Carbon, Agriculture Undersecretary Ernie Ordoñez and wife Sylvia with reelected Camarines Sur Gov. Luis Villafuerte, actress-model Angel Aquino, Fiona Caliboso and director Oskar Atendido of "F," Woman's Home Companion fashion editor Noelle Boado, Eric Catipon, Joseph Cortes and Mario Hernando.

Rikki wore a special shirt given to him by ABS-CBN executive Charo Santos-Concio, with whom he has maintained a close friendship. At the Orchidarium party, he was assisted by his brother Rolando Jimenez.

Rikki has set aside fashion designing to run his own business and to write tourism and fashion columns for two major broadsheets.

RIKKI with his socialite friends Myrna Borromeo, Fortune Ledesma and Evie Costa

RIKKI (center) with well-wishers Nolie Hans, Danny Dolor, Angel Aquino and Ben Farrales

SOCIALITES Roi Philips and Pacita de Guzman

WITH UNDERSECRETARY Ernie and Sylvia Ordoñez and Gov. Luis Villafuerte

SEATED, from left: Belen L.T. Martel, Ophie Clemente and Ina Ticzon; standing: Rikki, Angel Aquino, Tony Cajucom, Fiona Caliboso and Oskar Atendido

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Fun programs teach kids to care for environment

FAST-FOOD leader Jollibee continues to encourage the youth to be more environmentally aware by introducing and sponsoring educational yet fun programs for the preservation of Mother Nature.

Paglilingkod sa Araw ng Kalikasan (PARK) project, which is now on its third year, is open to Superkids Club members, aged 7-12, who are briefed on the importance of environmental care and protection.

For two years, participants cleaned recreational parks and community plazas where Jollibee stores operate. This year, the PARK project, aside from the usual clean-up, also included gutter-cleaning and painting, coastal clean-up, road cleaning and tree-planting.

A total of 100 Superkids Club members joined the PARK project. Jollibee also donated trash bins and cleaning equipment for community use. The project was undertaken in collaboration with Bantay Kalikasan and the International Earth Day Network 2001.

Another environmental program is Jollibee's Kaya Mong Lumikha, Kid! The nationwide contest aimed to hone the Filipino child's skill in transforming Jollibee scrap materials like old cups, styrofoam, plastic, and others into something useful and of value.

Kids learned to use and recycle Jollibee consumer materials and transform them into useful objects. The Kaya Mong Lumikha, Kid! contest is part of Jollibee's efforts to inspire Filipino children to be creative.

The company itself has consistently followed environmental standards set by the national government. Its commissary in Pasig City has an effective water treatment program, which adheres to environmental measures.

Jollibee has also been practicing waste segregation in its entire stores nationwide. Biodegradable trash is separated from the rest to allow the recycling of usable material.

THE JOLLIBEE crew sweeps away the trash collected during the company's clean-up drive in Manila.

'Cancer Terminator' book now accessible through the Net

WEEKLY DOSAGE

CHINESE cancer expert, Prof. Wang Zhen Guo's book titled "The Cancer Terminator" is now accessible through www.cancerherbal.com. According to Manila-based Green and Gold International Exports, the book is free for those who are interested. Wang is the president of China's Anti-Cancer Association of Jilin Province and the Chang Bai Shan Institute of Medicine and medical researcher of China's Ministry of Public Health.

Wang discussed in his book how and why alternative medicine could now provide hope for survival among cancer patients, and how Chinese herbal medicine has proven its efficacy in ontological cases. Also cited in "The Cancer Terminator" are testimonials from men and women all over the world who have benefited from the healing effects of Chinese herbal medicine. Also available in selected Metro Manila bookstores.

LUXURIOUS TREATMENT. L'Oreal Professionnel combines two concepts for a revolutionary haircare experience. Pamper yourself with ultra-soothing relaxation in expert hands and escape to an all-new sensory indulgence with L'Oreal Professionnel's Hair Spa. The revolutionary Hair Spa is a uniquely luxurious treatment that combines the rejuvenating powers of massage and the technology of L'Oreal Professionnel's state-of-the-art products. The result is to bring you totally refreshed hair, a revitalized scalp and a relaxed mind. The L'Oreal Hair Spa allows stylists and hairdressers to create a personalized head massage treatment specifically for your type of hair and scalp condition.

NEW TECHNOLOGY. Whether it be on the face, underarms, bikini line, arms or legs, clients need not fret. A giant step in hair removal technology, the FDA-approved LaserLight Hair Removal is the answer to today's unwanted hair problems. This treatment is exclusively available at Facial Care Centre and is the first of its kind in the country to deliver unparalleled results when it comes to unwanted hair removal.

LaserLight works by emitting a pulse of light that is focused on the pigment of melanin located in the hair. The pulsed duration is just long enough to disable the hair follicle and will not transfer excess heat to the skin.

This is perfect for all types of skin. Perfected in the USA, the machine has also been tried and tested in other Facial Care Centres in Asia and has been proven to be safe and effective. LaserLight Hair Removal uses the most advanced laser system which permanently disables hair production thus, allowing patients to enjoy limitless social functions.

Call or visit any Facial Care Centre branch: Makati (817-3323), Ortigas (687-2196), Quezon City (372-6633), Shaw (534-7701), Alabang (842-1144), Binondo (242-2148) and Cebu (233-7631).

SKIN CARE. Epiderm-A Extreme offers whitening agents: melawhite and licorice which synergize to inhibit melanin formation without causing skin irritation and help minimize skin tanning or blackening of the skin, freckles, liver spots or age pigment. Smooth, nongreasy and easily absorbed by the skin, the product soothes and softens skin while providing sunscreen protection from harmful ultraviolet rays. Best of all, the product is so affordable; it gives you radiant, bare-able skin without burning a hole in your pocket. Available in all leading drugstores and supermarkets nationwide.

To heal the body

THE CHIROPRACTIC approach is a form of healing based on the ancient philosophy that the human body has a mechanism to heal on its own. There's nothing mysterious about chiropractic healing. In fact, it works on a simple but powerful premise—that the body is better able to heal itself with a normally functioning spine. Chiropractic care considers the spinal cord, the main pathway of the nervous system, and the main control for feeling, movement and function, as the focal point of healing.

In Davao City, the Kyoto Therapeutic Clinic, which is located at 113 Ilustre St. (tel. 222-8564), offers Japanese chiropractic arts.

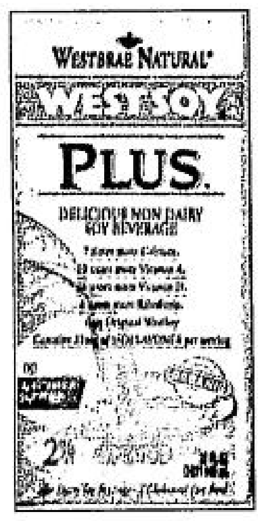
The chosen official therapeutic clinic of the Davao Eagles, Kyoto offers an alternative treatment to individuals suffering from osteoarthritis, gouty-arthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, frozen shoulder syndrome, back pains/neck pains, scoliosis, migraine headaches and emphysema. Aside from these, it has special health programs on stress management, anti-aging, obesity, irritable bowel and even infant massage.

Top 30 nutritional supplements

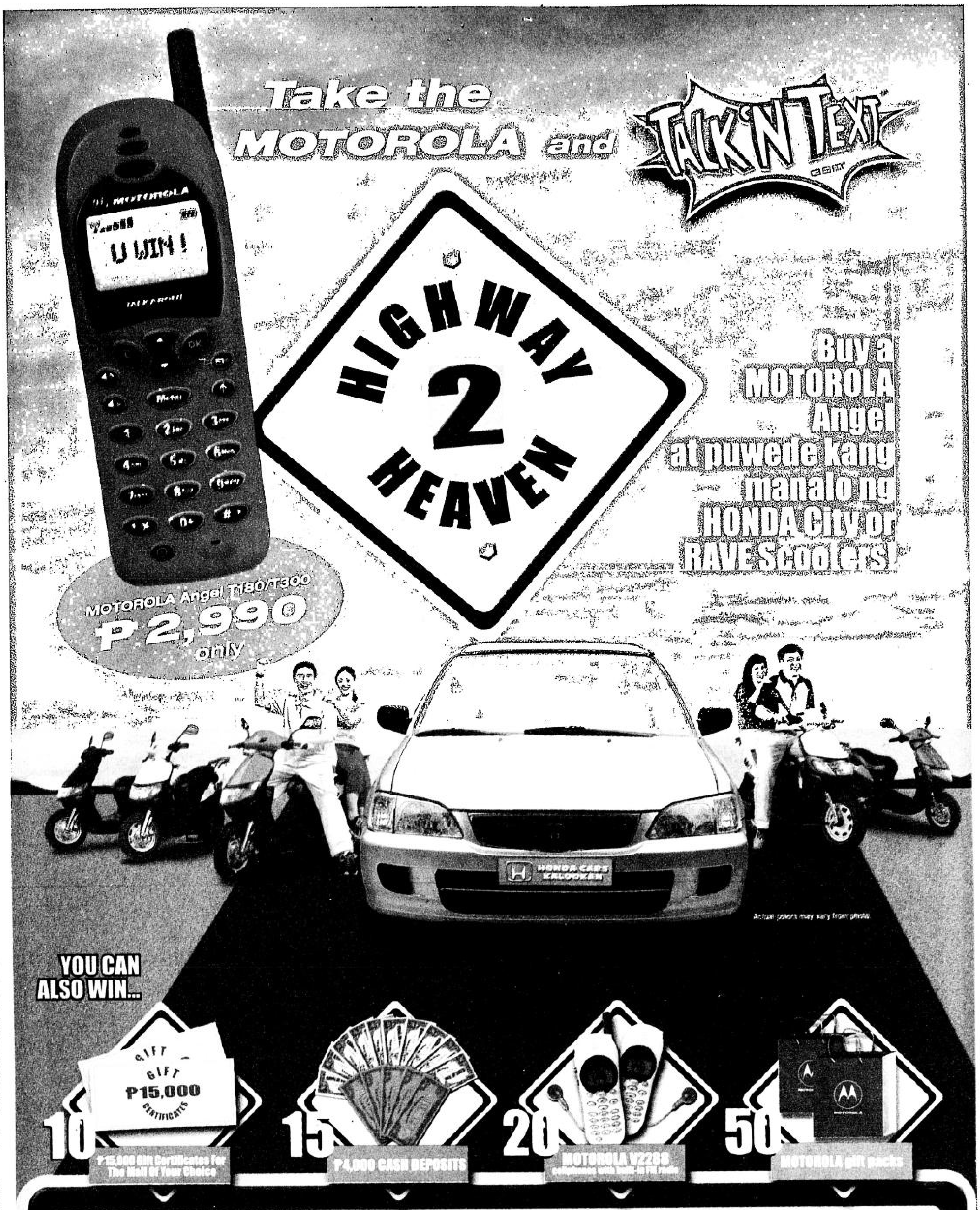
UPTREND Health Center has researched and prepared a health guide on the top 30 nutritional supplements for various health conditions and ailments. The selection of the leading supplements was based on their proven effectiveness, popular acceptance, health benefits and safety.

Among the supplements featured are glucosamine for arthritis, chitosan for obesity, gugulipid for high cholesterol, hawthorn for hypertension, gymnema for diabetes, saw palmetto for enlarged prostrates, black cohost for menopause, licorice for ulcers, horse chestnut for varicose veins, valerian for insomnia and ginkgo biloba for poor memory and circulation. The 110-page guide also discusses the recommended dosages and possible side effects.

Call 928-3463 or e-mail uptrend@pacific.net.ph.



GET the amazing health benefits of soybean from nondairy beverages like flavored soy milk, the cholesterol-free West Soy Plus products available at Healthy Options. West Soy Plus contains a balance of extra calcium, vitamins A, D and riboflavin, and 25 mg of isoflavones (one of the phytonutrients found in soybeans) per serving. Healthy Options has branches at Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Rustan's Supermarket, Makati City, Festival Supermall, Filinvest, Alabang, Ayala Center-Cebu City, SM City North Edsa, SM City Manila, Greenbelt-Makati City and SM Megamall.


Take the MOTOROLA and
TALK'N TEXT GSM
U WIN!
HIGHWAY 2 HEAVEN
Buy a MOTOROLA Angel at puwede kang manalo ng HONDA City or RAVE Scooters!
MOTOROLA Angel T180/T300
₱2,990 only
HONDA CARS KALOOKAN
Actual colors may vary from photo.
YOU CAN ALSO WIN...
GIFT
₱15,000
CERTIFICATES
10 ₱15,000 Gift Certificates For The Mall Of Your Choice
15 ₱4,000 CASH DEPOSITS
20 MOTOROLA V2288 cellphones with built-in FM radio
50 MOTOROLA gift packs

TO JOIN...

1. Every purchase of a Motorola Angel T300/T180 Talk 'N Text cellular phone from the dealers listed below gives the customer a chance to join the **HIGHWAY 2 HEAVEN** raffle.

2. This promo is exclusive to the purchase of Motorola Angels T30G/T180 **simlocked** to the SMART network via Piltel's Talk 'N Text, and only from authorized dealers and outlets listed below.

3. The customer indicates his name, address, contact numbers, and affixes his signature on a piece of paper and encloses this in a white legal-size envelope with a photocopy of the invoice and IMEI label. Said label is found on the side of the cellular phone box/package.

4. The customer must likewise include one (1) copy of the filled-out Owner's Certificate form. The cellular phone number must also be included.

5. The customer may drop the entry at dropboxes located at TSI outlets or send or mail to: **HIGHWAY 2 HEAVEN RAFFLE,** c/o INNOVISIONS, INC., Rm. 309 Cattleya Condominium, 235 Salcedo Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City 1229. A DTI representative will be invited to be present during the opening of drop boxes.

6. Prizes include:

Grand Prize	:	One (1) Honda City 1.3 LXi (Manual transmission)
Second Prizes	:	Five (5) Motorized Rave Scooters 50cc
Third Prizes	:	Ten (10) ₱15,000.00 Gift Certificates for a mall of the winners' choice
Fourth Prizes	:	Fifteen (15) ₱4,000.00 initial cash deposits to a bank of the winners' choice
Fifth Prizes	:	Twenty (20) Motorola V2288 cell phones simlocked to the Talk 'N Text network
Consolation Prizes	:	Fifty (50) Motorola gift packs worth ₱500.00

7. Promo period is from **June 25 to August 30, 2001.**

8. All entries must be dropped in drop boxes no later than **August 30, 2001**. Mailed-in entries must be postmarked on or before August 30, 2001 and must be received by Innovisions, Inc. no later than September 13, 2001.

9. The raffle draw will be held at 3 PM, Sept. 15, 2001, at the INNOVISIONS, INC. office, Motorola's merchandising agency, at Rm. 309 Cattleya Condominium, 235 Salcedo Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City 1229. A DTI representative shall be invited to witness the draw.

10. A participant may **only win once.** In case a name is drawn more than once, he/she receives the prize with the bigger value.

11. Winners will be notified via registered mail and published in at least two (2) nationwide leading print publications. Motorola shall likewise call the winner through his/her cellphone and/or notify via text.

12. Prizes are not convertible to cash.

13. All prizes exceeding ₱10,000 are tax-free. Prizes shall be shipped to winners outside of Metro Manila. Motorola will shoulder shipment costs.

14. This nationwide promo is exclusive for purchases of Motorola Angels T300/T180 Talk 'N Text, available in the outlets listed below.

15. Prizes can be redeemed within sixty (60) calendar days from receipt of notification. Winners must present any valid identification card (i.e. Passport, Driver's License, SSS, GSIS, TIN), the notification document, and the original invoice/receipt from the purchase of the cellular phone, and original copy of the Owner's Certificate.

16. GMA winners may claim their prizes at INNOVISIONS, INC., Rm. 309 Cattleya Condominium, 235 Salcedo Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City 1229, except for the car and motorized scooters. Instead, certificates will be issued at said office to the winners. The originals of the said certificates must be presented at Honda Cars Kalookan, for the Honda City 1.3LXi (manual), at JT Bikes and Accessories Center Corp. (311 Rizal Ave. Ext., Caloocan City) for the RAVE scooters where various documents and ownership papers will be processed before the release of said prizes. The winners will shoulder the cost of LTO registration and other documentation.

17. Employees of Motorola Communications Phils., Inc., as well as their merchandising agency Innovisions, Inc., and participating outlets/dealers, including their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the raffle.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0857, Series of 2001.

AVAILABLE AT: COMWORKS DEALERS: METRO MANILA: ComWorks Commonwealth 9315256 / 4559207 / 9517995, **ComWorks, Smart Commonwealth Telecenter** 5114325, **ComWorks Smart Binondo Telecenter** 2422044, **MANILA** Memo Xpress 243-9461 to 65, **QUEZON CITY** Amitywin 412-9093, Avesco 912-8881, Alfa 1 721-5915 / 414-2167, CK Cellular 922-2292, D' Cellshoppe Express 454-3105, Dialogue 638-4914 to 16, Telemartcom Inc. 781-0701 to 03/911-9946, Telemartcom, Smart Quezon Ave. Telecenter 511-6806, Primary Asia 743-6740/ 743-6731, Siena Telecomshop 928-6925, Mc Gala Phils. 740-2753 / 740-2875, Prepaid Card Net, Inc. 727-3762 / 731-4143, **MAKATI** Abbycom 892-2840 / 844-3403, Globalcel 817-1898 / 894-3417, Globotel 888-0104 to 05, World Wide Telecom 853-0284, **MANDALUYONG** PNT Connect 636-1635 / 631-6844, Power Air Industries 746-3130, Wavesite Communication 729-9342, **TAGUIG** Star Search, **PASIG** Advantage 637-8404, Wireless Connection 631-3710 / 631-3727, **MARIKINA** Samchu Trading 948-5616, **CALOOCAN** DLV Callstand (0919) 822-2888, Nar Telecoms 366-1908 / 366-1913, SDV Telecoms 365-4644, Virgem Cel Haus 285-3789, Telemartcom, Caloocan Smart Telecenter 511-4332, **NORTH LUZON AREA: ComWorks, Smart San Fernando Telecenter** (0918-503-5071), **BULACAN** ETC CELFONES & THINGS (044) 711-3452, Video Phones & Things (044) 791-5532, VGS Communication (044) 662-6725 / 662-6377, **PANGASINAN** NLTC Cellular & Computers (075) 568-4306 / (075) 568-2482, **CABANATUAN** 21ST VIACOM CELLULAR SALES CENTER (044)4637144, **PAMPANGA** Gil Masangkay (0919)4103333, Angelinas Optical N Fones, Fones GuaGua, GD Celfones, **ANGELES CITY** RFT Personal Phones (045) 3235454, **LA UNION** Alpha Delta Merchandise (072) 242-3708, **TARLAC** Benerson Enterprises (045) 982-1585 / (045) 982-3920, **BAGUIO** Tiong San Harrison Dept. Store (074)443-9384, **SOUTH LUZON: ComWorks Calamba Branch** (049) 245-4373, **ComWorks Lipa Branch** (043) 981-2835, **ComWorks, Smart Lipa Telecenter** (043) 757-1787, **Fiesta Mall A & B** (0919)823-5577 / (043) 404-1702, **ComWorks, Smart Tagaytay Telecenter** (0919)597-2077, **LAGUNA** Nema Trading (0918) 509-2695, TSS Telecom (046) 545-0410 , R. Carpio Digicom Center (02) 861-3804/ (02) 861-3772, **CAVITE** Ramjay's Enterprises (046) 850-2109, MCL Technology (046) 875-3370, **BATANGAS** Presnet Cellphone Shop (043) 727-2197, Windsor (043) 723-6724, Edwin Ng (043) 723-7769, Citifone (043) 723-7692, Marquinez Store (043) 757-1769, Laylo Beltran Enterprises (0919) 832-7121, Transnet Communication, Remedios Licup, Aikon Trading (0919) 391-1234, Selyular Centre (043) 756-5481, Fortune Communication (043) 756-2978, Elysrael (0919) 411-1110, N.T.T. Docomo (043) 756-0576, Platinum Telecoms (043) 778-0670, **LUCENA** Contact Communication (042) 373-7267/ (042) 373-2020, Viewers (042) 710-6216/ (042) 660-6216, **SAN PABLO** Zaide Telecom (049) 561-3299 **LEGASPI** Gold Street (0919)7589803, Peoples Marketing (052) 480-5855/ (052) 480-8488, R.B Imperial (G/F LCC Dept. Store Rizal St.), **OCCIDENTAL MINDORO** Sikatuna Marketing 428-1679, **CALAPAN MINDORO** Calapan New Era Auto Supply (0918)-5057116, **PALAWAN** Palawan Electronics (0919)373-4401, **CEBU** RGM (032) 254-6305 / (032) 254-6314, Everet Shoe Center (032) 253-8641, Ester Shopping Center (034) 312-5550 , RC Goldmine (032) 255-4961, **ILOILO** TELSTAR (033) 320-8182, Iloilo Lucky Auto Supply (033) 337-0132, **BACOLOD** POS MARKETING (034) 433-0334, Galleon Enterprises (034) 441-1443, **TACLOBAN** Cellcom World Communication (053) 321-7986, **CAGAYAN DE ORO** First Call (088) 726-5585, Cellwave (088) 857-7777, Ritz Cellular (088) 856-2598, Unique Marketing (088) 227-2025/(0918)6085761, Graphics Communications (088) 856-7999/(088) 8569993 **BUTUAN** Star Cellular (0918)9123639, **DAVAO** Davao Electrical Sales (082) 221-3396, Simphony Marketing, Telepone (082) 221-4749, **ILIGAN** Interstar Communication (063) 223-8224, **ZAMBOANGA** Dialtone (062) 992-2191, National Commercial Center (062) 993-0605, **PAGADIAN CITY** Celluplanet (062) 215-1576, **BUKIDNON** Cellucom (088) 828-2228, **TAGBILARAN** Hamilton Trading, **OZAMIS** BL Communication (088) 521-8348, **KIDAPAWAN** Express Comm (064) 288-1305

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MOTOROLA

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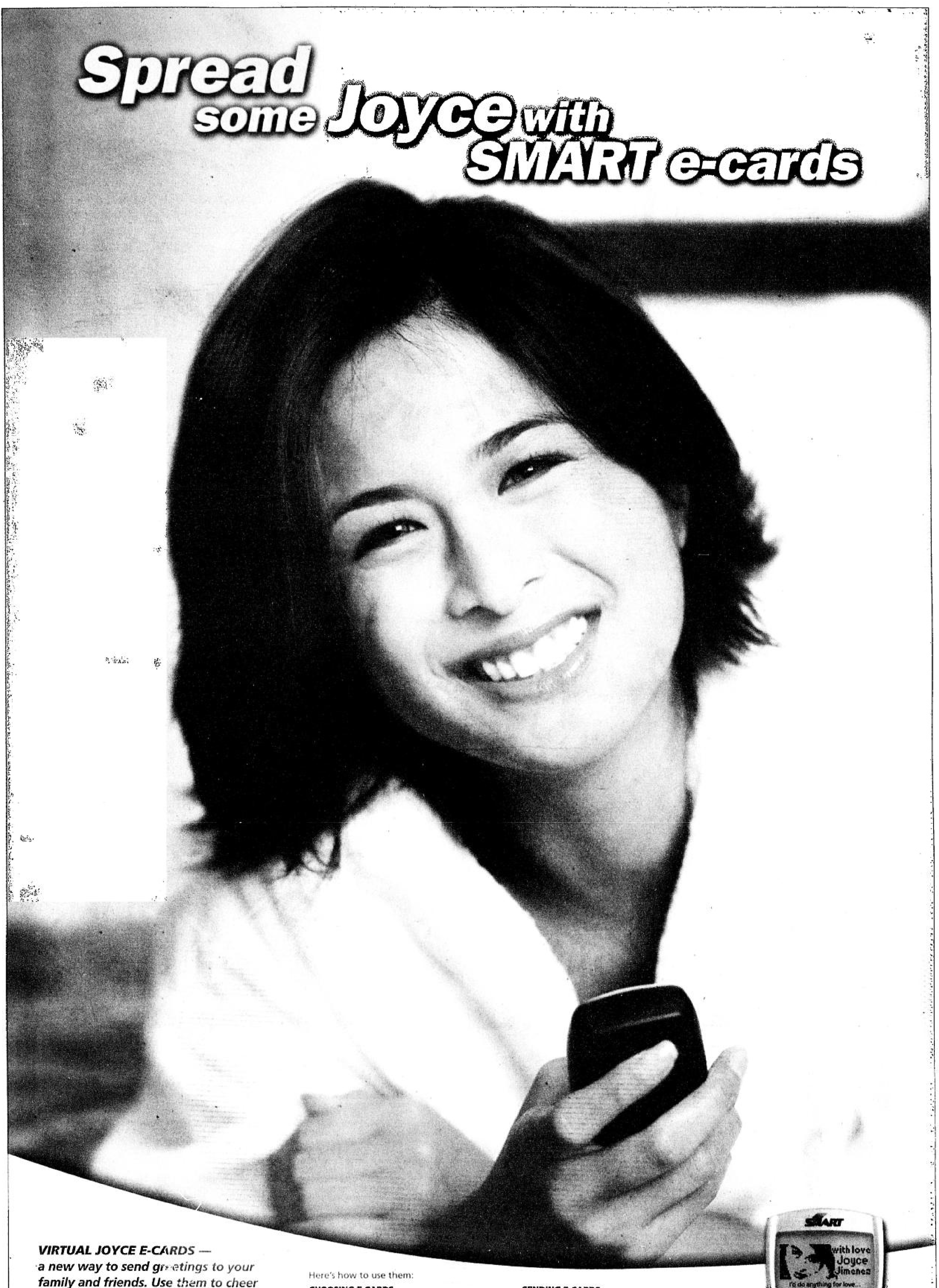

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Joyce
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I'd do anything for love...
And even more for you!
E197

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- To receive more e-card info, key in ECARDHELP and send to 240.

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